

Egyptian flags fly in Jerusalem on eve of historic Sadat visit

Israel has been waiting tensely and optimistically for the arrival today of President Sadat, whose visit may begin a new epoch in Middle East history. The Egyptian advance party was given an enthusiastic welcome when it flew into Tel Aviv yesterday: and there has been

pressure on the Government to make an open-handed political gesture to reward Mr Sadat for the personal and political risks he is acknowledged to be incurring. Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, is hoping to make a reciprocal visit to Cairo to keep the dialogue open

after the President returns on Monday. In Egypt Mr Sadat's initiative has aroused popular admiration although he still faces sharp criticism from some Cairo elements. Other Arab states have either denounced him or kept an unfriendly silence. (Report, page 5.)

Denunciation by Iraq, Libya, Syria and Palestinians

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, Nov 18

Israel was agog today in anticipation of the arrival of President Sadat tomorrow on a mission viewed here as a possible dawn of a new era in Israel-Arab relations.

Shows and musical performances planned for tomorrow night were cancelled as entrepreneurs reckoned they could not hope to lure enough of the Egyptian advance party to their television set during the arrival ceremony.

Many workers have notified their employers they are taking the day off on Sunday to follow the historic events on their television screens.

Some shops in Jerusalem displayed Egyptian and Israeli flags side by side in their windows today. A flag manufacturer said the Government had ordered 15,000 Egyptian flags but he was not sure he could produce them in time. Hundreds of Israeli and Arab flags in occupied areas had been purchased privately, he said.

An advance party of 60 Egyptian officials and technicians was applauded by hundreds of airport employees this morning as they flew in to Ben Gurion airport from Cairo. The Egyptians were expressionless as they walked to the terminal building between rows of clapping Israelis and were taciturn when approached by reporters. Apparently they were under instructions to refrain from making statements.

Most of them were technicians, who later cooperated with their Israeli counterparts in arranging security communications and other services.

The party also included members of President Sadat's staff, who discussed arrangements and then took the Egyptian Boeing 737 back to Cairo in the afternoon to report to the President. A representative said the Israelis had met all President Sadat's wishes and they were satisfied.



Israeli troops guarding the Egyptian airliner that flew President Sadat's advance party to Tel Aviv yesterday.

Meanwhile in Jerusalem the Cabinet held an extraordinary meeting. Mr Begin told his colleagues what he proposed to tell his guest in his talks, as well as in his speech to the Knesset on Sunday. Government source acknowledged privately that Israel was under strong psychological pressure to reward President Sadat with an open-handed political gesture for the grave personal and political risks he is taking. Otherwise, it was reasoned, his

drastic initiative could boomerang and lead to another war. One astute commentator said Mr Begin will not make concessions during the visit but will do so later during the reciprocal visit he expects to make to Cairo. The Prime Minister has said he is confident his invitation to President Sadat will be reciprocated. A Cairo visit could maintain momentum towards a peaceful settlement, it was reasoned. After meetings with President

Sadat's staff today, the Israelis announced that the visitor will speak Arabic in the Knesset on Sunday and Mr Begin will speak Hebrew. There will be simultaneous translations. Mr Begin had suggested that alternatively both should speak English, but he left the decision to his guest. The Egyptian advance party also brought word that President Sadat had accepted Mr Begin's suggestion that the two leaders should together visit Yad Vashem, the memorial to the Jewish victims of the Nazi

holocaust. In addition to praying at al-Aqsa mosque on the Temple Mount, the President also wishes to visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Old City.

Jerusalem: Mr Begin said in a radio interview that President Sadat's visit was a historic step towards peace. He said the visit would help to bring about a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Mr Begin also said that he was confident that the visit would lead to a new era of peace and stability in the Middle East.

Leading article, page 15

Crowds at mosque hail President as hero

From Our Correspondent
Cairo, Nov 18

An atmosphere of tense expectation prevailed here today as President Sadat prepared to leave tomorrow for Jerusalem on a peace mission which has stunned his friends and foes alike.

People walking in the streets of Cairo carried their transistor radios with them to keep informed of developments.

In Jerusalem, when the President went to a mosque for Friday's prayers, crowds packed the area near the mosque, shouting "We support you, Mr Sadat. We support you, Mr Sadat. We support you, Mr Sadat."

The President is making his historic journey unperturbed by opposition at home and in the Arab world.

Mr Ismail Fahmi, the Foreign Minister, and Mr Muhammad Riad, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, have both resigned, but Mr Sadat's visit has excited the admiration of the Cairo man-in-the-street.

A civil servant, Mr Muhammad Marzouk, said: "Sadat is brave and is seeking

peace. I pray to Allah he will succeed."

Mr Hussein Ali, a guard at a Cairo store, said: "I am willing to join Sadat's security men to guard him in his sacred mission."

A housewife, Mrs Samy Ibrahim, said: "The stakes are too high. Let's pray."

In a move to placate further opposition to Mr Sadat's mission, the Speaker of the Parliament will tomorrow hold a meeting with leaders of Egypt's three parties: the ruling Socialist Party, the right-wing Liberal Socialist Party and the left-wing Progressive Unionist Party.

The Socialist and Liberal Socialist parties have supported the visit to Israel, while the Progressive Unionist Party has opposed it.

The semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram said that the President would take with him Mr Mamdouh Salem, the Prime Minister.

Cairo, Nov 18.—The Government shut down the Voice of Palestine, a radio station run by the Palestine Liberation Organization, because it broadcast commentaries condemning the visit.—UPI.

Syrian mourning, page 5

Embassies attacked in two cities

From Mario Mediano
Athens, Nov 18

Eleven Arab students were injured tonight when Greek riot police intervened to evict demonstrators from the Egyptian Embassy here.

Sixty aliens, half of them Arabs, were rounded up. Police said 20 Arab students took advantage of a prelection rally in neighbouring Constitution Square to shoot their way into the embassy as a protest against President Sadat's visit to Israel.

The protesters managed to penetrate into the embassy building where they exchanged fire with them. Police used tear gas shortly before midnight and dislodged the intruders.

A bundle of leaflets signed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine was found outside the embassy. Beirut, Nov 18.—A man was killed and two other people were wounded in a rocket attack tonight on the Egyptian Embassy in Beirut.

Other explosions were heard after the attack, and gunfire echoed through parts of Beirut.—Reuters.

Imaginative response by Mr Begin awaited

By Louis Heren

The decision of President Sadat to visit Israel is undoubtedly a dramatic and historic move. It is a move that will create more turmoil in the Middle East.

A partial withdrawal would, however, strengthen President Sadat's position in Egypt. Negotiations of the suggested withdrawal at Geneva could placate opinion in other Arab countries because it would not then be a bilateral act between Egypt and Israel.

This is seen to be important. President Sadat cannot afford to be isolated from the rest of the Arab world, and a Geneva agreement on a withdrawal could prevent that.

Arab sources said that President Sadat's initiative, if sensibly handled, could lead to a new and more promising phase in the Middle East. Jordan and Lebanon, if left alone, are seen to be ready to support him.

Syria, the other front line state, has expressed its displeasure, and the fear is that unless Israeli reciprocity is imaginatively President Assad of Syria could seek a new and disruptive alliance with Iraq and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

dent Sadat assassinated or replaced by an extremist regime in Cairo. Either eventually would create more turmoil in the Middle East.

The Conservative attack last night was led by Sir Keith Joseph, who gave a warning of an "unemployment explosion". He said that would be the result unless the Government abandoned its "false norm" of a 10 per cent earnings guideline. He explained that that in fact meant a 6 per cent average wage rise, and that it was essential that if some groups got more, then other groups should get less.

Again developing the change in Conservative theme that has emerged as public opinion appeared to be backing the striking firemen, he suggested that they, the police and the Army, should get more, obtainable "from part of the economies elsewhere in the public sector".

It was absurd to hold down pay for an undermanned and underpaid essential service such as the police, while countering pay claims at a norm, let alone above it, from loss-making, overmanned, and, therefore, in aggregate overpaid nationalized industries.

The great hope within the Government is that wage de-

Maintenance of council services aim of unchanged grant level

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The Government announced yesterday a rate-support grant settlement for local authorities. It aims to restrict the percentage rise in average rate payments next year to single figures and to ensure that council services are maintained at their present level.

There is special help for Londoners and a "safety net" to prevent the grant for individual councils from falling too far in the settlement. It was described as "fair and not unfavourable" to local authorities by Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment.

The settlement assumes a rate of inflation of all local authority costs in 1978-79 of about 9 per cent. That will stiffen the determination of local government to keep wage agreements made with the firemen and manual workers within the Government's guidelines.

The Association of County Councils commented that it was a London settlement, and said it would result outside London in high rate increases or cuts in services.

Mr Shore told a press conference that last year the Government had been looking for cuts in local government spending. "This year we are not. Local government expenditure is now on a plateau. We want it to stay there in 1978-79."

The Government's proportion of grant has been maintained at this year's level of 61 per cent of expenditure. "As a result of this settlement," the Minister added, "I expect average domestic rate increases to be in single figures. This settlement ensures that, overall, authorities should have no cause to cut back on services

to ratepayers or to levy large rate increases."

For 1978-79 total relevant Council spending has been fixed at £12,531m, compared with £11,717m in 1977-78. The Government's grant totals £7,544m, and to take account of inflation a maximum of £525m will be available to pay for extra costs. That is a cash limit in line with the Government's pay policy.

Mr Shore said the settlement "acknowledges that local authority expenditure is under control. I do not want local authorities to spend more than this settlement allows, nor do I want them to spend less."

The continued use of the regression analysis formula for the distribution of the grant reflects the Government's policy of concentrating resources in areas with the most pressing social and economic difficulties. Many of the cities with acute difficulties would benefit, and London's relative position would improve, Mr Shore said.

The average London domestic ratepayer paid £162 this year, he added, compared with £15 elsewhere. His aim was to ensure that if all councils conformed to government guidelines the increase in the average rate bills of London would be the same as the average increase elsewhere.

To that end the amount of grant "clawed back" from London because of its high rate level is to be reduced from £403m to £270m.

To achieve the balance he seeks, Mr Shore has introduced a "safety net" to limit loss of grant caused through the distribution formula. It means that Continued on page 2, col 5

A big hug can end that choking feeling

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent

After the kiss of life comes the hug of life. Doctors say it is an effective treatment for choking after the customary clump on the back or "fishing" for an obstruction in a victim's throat.

Dr Philip Lawson, commenting on the treatment in the current issue of the *Police Review*, as new, simple and effective, says that choking is becoming more common. Doctors have named it the "stomachhouse syndrome".

In America it has become the sixth leading cause of sudden death and is often associated with eating steaks after having a lot to drink. There are usually contributory factors: victims often wear false teeth and are prone to gulp food.

So far it is rare in Britain, but Dr Lawson advises police men, or anyone confronted with a victim of choking, to use Heimlich's hug, named after the American doctor who invented it. The instructions are as follows:

Grab the victim round the waist from behind; clench one fist with the thumb side towards the stomach and clasp it with the other hand. The fist should be above the navel and below the rib cage. Then give a sudden squeeze or hug, pushing the clenched fist as far as possible with a lifting, thrusting motion into the upper stomach. Squeeze a fruit stone or even a pea will shoot out, if not at first certainly in response to repeated hugs.

The treatment can be given to a sitting victim or if he has fallen on the floor, provided the soft spot between the sides of the rib cage and above the navel has been found. Anyone so revived should see a doctor as soon as possible.

Minister's hope of new success

By Our Political Editor

The October rise in the retail price index concealed the current "low rate" of inflation. Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said last night. The so-called "six-monthly annualized figure" was 9.9 per cent.

Mr Hattersley went further in remarks prepared for a party meeting at Devizes. "If we can continue to apply the measures that succeeded this year we can bring inflation down to single figures during the first half of next year and... we can go on reducing our inflation rate throughout 1978."

That is a bold promise, and one the Conservatives will seize on. They profess that the rate is now "gauging" and that after a brief dip into single figures it will rise again.

The Conservative attack last night was led by Sir Keith Joseph, who gave a warning of an "unemployment explosion". He said that would be the result unless the Government abandoned its "false norm" of a 10 per cent earnings guideline. He explained that that in fact meant a 6 per cent average wage rise, and that it was essential that if some groups got more, then other groups should get less.

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The great hope within the Government is that wage de-

Annual inflation rate falls to 14.1 per cent

By David Blake

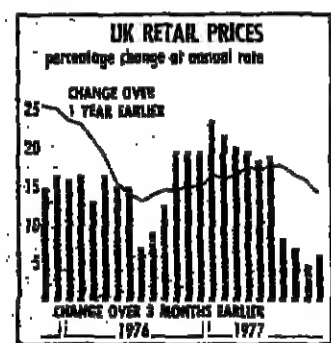
Retail prices rose only 0.4 per cent in October, bringing down the annual rate of inflation to 14.1 per cent, its lowest level since August last year.

The underlying rate of inflation, as measured by the change in the index for items excluding seasonal foods over the past six months, has broken through the barrier into single figures and stands at an annual rate of 9.9 per cent.

Mr Hattersley, the Chancellor, now seems likely to achieve his goal of bringing the annual rate of inflation down to 12-13 per cent by the end of this year and, well, how single figures by the early part of 1978.

When happens after that depends, as Government ministers constantly remind everyone, on the way pay settlements develop over the coming months. The signs are not encouraging. Indeed, there is a widespread private feeling within the Government that the good performance on the price front is a slightly artificial lull between the inflation caused earlier this year by the fall in the value of the pound and the inflation that will be caused next year by the increase in wages. Many in Whitehall believe the increase will turn out at 15 per cent.

The great hope within the Government is that wage de-



means will be held down over the coming months because workers will be impressed by the remarkable deceleration in the inflation rate achieved during the two years of pay restraint.

The success is indeed remarkable. In the second quarter of 1975, just before phase one, the annual rate of inflation was 43 per cent compared with the previous three months: in October the equivalent figure was 9.9 per cent.

Britain is now running an inflation rate which is not greatly above the level of most of its major competitors in the industrial world. Wholesale price figures, which are a good forward indicator to the retail price index, point firmly Continued on page 2, col 8

Charges against Sir Hugh Fraser and five others

Sir Hugh Fraser, deputy chairman of Scottish and Universal Investments, and five other businessmen were charged yesterday in the Glasgow Sheriff Court that as directors they failed to give a true and fair view of the affairs of the company. The charges, under the Companies Act, are connected with the balance sheet for the year ending March 1975. Sir Hugh and two others are also charged over share deals.

'Watchdog' for Civil Service pay unit

A "watchdog" body, whose members will include non-civil servants is to be set up to oversee the work of the reactivated Civil Service pay research unit which compares Civil Service posts with analogous jobs in the private sector.

S Africa detainee dies

The death of another South African police detainee was announced while legal arguments continued at the Pretoria inquest into the death of Steve Biko, the black consciousness leader.

£3m arts boost

A further £3m for the arts, to be spent mainly on repair and construction work at galleries and museums, was announced by Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

Production showing signs of recovery

Economic activity in Britain seems to have started to pick up in late October. Provisional government figures show that gross domestic product rose at an annual rate of almost 3 per cent in the third quarter. But the rise, if confirmed, comes after a long period of low output and does not restore economic activity to the level of last winter.

Congress for women

Two thousand women are meeting in Houston, Texas, for America's first National Women's Conference. They are being watched by thousands more women, many of whom believe the congress has been taken over by extremists.

Icy paths not illegal

Highway authorities have no legal duty to clear roads and footpaths of snow or ice, or put down salt and grit whenever driving becomes slippery or dangerous, the Court of Appeal ruled.

Owen warning: Dr Owen, Foreign Secretary, has given a warning to the Labour Party about "the heady froths of Eurocommunism"

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Hopes of fire peace dim as Rees talks fail

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

The Government was left in direct conflict with the Fire Brigades Union last night after four hours of talks with Mr Rees, Home Secretary, failed to produce any hope of a settlement. The Home Office talks began immediately after local authority employers and union leaders broke off negotiations on a future formula for firemen's pay.

Without a Cabinet initiative or a softening of the strikers' attitudes, "either of which seemed likely when talks ended yesterday, hopes for an early end to the strike appear to be at their lowest ebb since it began."

Both sides in the National Joint Council for the Fire Service reported to Mr Rees that there was no basis in present discussions for an end to the dispute. The union told Mr Rees that only a better immediate offer than 10 per cent would bring moves to end the strike.

Mr Terence Parry, the union's general secretary, said after the meeting that there had been no hint by Mr Rees of any shift in the Government's adherence to the 10 per cent guidelines.

The Home Office said last night that a fireman with five years' service would increase his gross weekly pay from £53.71 to £72.29 under the offer. Gross pay of a London fireman

receiving a special allowance would rise to £80.67.

The executive of the National Association of Fire Officers yesterday rejected by a 4-1 majority a proposal that they should strike in support of the firemen. But the executive agreed that association members should not cross picket lines at fire stations.

Christopher Walker writes from Belfast: The fleet of 15 "Green Goddess" fire engines sent to Northern Ireland to cope with the firemen's strike is to be doubled by the weekend.

The Government has also ordered the special unit. The 1st Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, stationed near Cambridge, to be on standby to fly to Ulster.

Army fire-fighters last night tackled two fires in Antrim Road, Belfast.

The more serious was caused by a parcel bomb which destroyed the premises of a leading advertising agency. Before the Army fire-fighters could bring the fire under control it spread to two adjoining buildings which were also destroyed.

The Army said that a booby-trap of four mortar bombs and a detonator had been set close to a water hydrant near an earlier fire at a plumber's yard in Belfast. The device was defused.

Breathing gear "risk", page 2
Leading article, page 15

How to invest in the energy sector worldwide

Save & Prosper Energy Industries Fund

This established fund offers the investor a practical and effective way of achieving a broad spread of international investment in energy and associated industries, at the same time enabling him to avoid the high costs of day-to-day dealing, currency management, and research in a fast-changing and high-technology field.

Prospects

Middle East oil production has fallen recently but demand has not been strong, putting pressure on oil company profits. However, this short-term weakness should not disguise a promising outlook—demand in the 1980's seems certain to exceed supply, and prospects for oil companies are correspondingly encouraging.

In the UK, selected companies with North Sea oil interests are expected to remain attractive as production comes on stream, in many cases earlier than expected.

In the USA, the pricing policy of newly discovered gas is still under discussion. However, we believe that this will result in a rise in price sufficient to stimulate exploration activity, with a corresponding boost for the services industry. Additionally, the increasing emphasis now being placed on coal, in an effort to conserve reserves of natural gas and oil, indicates a long-term investment opportunity.

Although it must be borne in mind that the energy sector worldwide is heavily dependent on the level of economic activity in the major industrialised nations, particularly the US, the sector as a key industry remains an attractive area for long-term investment.

Further information

For full details, please consult your professional adviser or contact: Customer Services, Save & Prosper Group, 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP. Tel: 01-554 8899. Advisers should contact Save & Prosper Services on 01-831 7801 or 031-226 7351 (Scotland).

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SAVE & PROSPER GROUP

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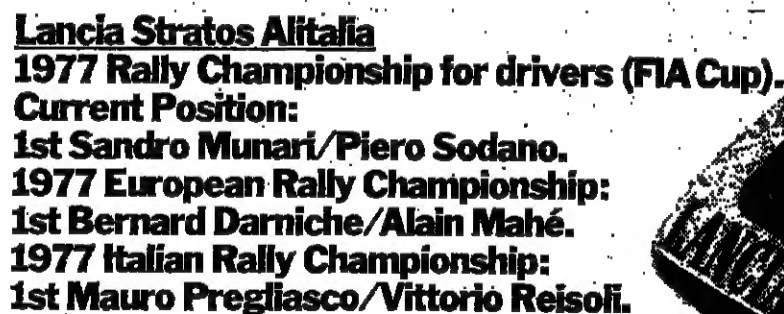
The Government believes
that if earnings could be
at a 1 per cent increase, in-
flation would be reduced to
10 per cent over an annual
period at the end of next year, pre-
siding a somewhat more
realistic assessment with
the hope that the country
that hovering around 20 per
cent, a rising rate of infla-
tion of 10 per cent would
mean that the growth of in-
come above 15 per cent
current base would be
Prices in October
favourable, influenced by
a decrease in the cost of
the domestic market.
The prices of seasonal
fruits actually fell by 5 per cent
and below the level of the
first year when it was
not of the month, the
cost of fruit fell 65 per
cent during the month.

The increase in prices dur-
ing the month was only
10 per cent, with the
cost of fruit the most im-
portant element. The cost of
fruits rose 2.1 per cent
in October.

Although the already
high rate of inflation be-
came even higher this
year, the summer has
been characterized by the drop
in price of seasonal food
to the point that the tradi-
tional high price of the
country has been con-
siderably less than
downwards since June.

December, 1976, at 12
per cent, is the value of the
the benefits of income
taxes.

The underlying in-
come tax rate has been
100 per cent from 142 per
cent in 1976, to a level
of 20 per cent in the
Table.

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Pooling the resources of the Fiat Group has made Ferrari, Fiat and Lancia three prestigious products from Italian industry.

7 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS HAVE BEEN WON BY CARS OF THE FIAT GROUP IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS

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No duty on councils to clear all roads of ice

Highways authorities have no duty to clear all roads of ice and snow, the Court of Appeal has ruled yesterday.

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, said that in his view the Highway Act, 1959, did not impose an absolute duty to clear roads of ice and snow. Otherwise it would be an impossible task.

The Act gave no power to highway authorities to clear roads of ice and snow, but it did give them power to clear roads of snow and ice to the extent that it was necessary for the safety of the public.

The court had before it a case of a man who had been injured when he fell on a icy footpath in Kent in February 1976. The man's family claimed that the highway authority was liable for his injuries.

The court allowed the appeal and held that the highway authority was not liable for the man's injuries. The court said that the highway authority was not under a duty to clear the footpath of ice and snow.

The court also held that the highway authority was not under a duty to clear the footpath of snow and ice to the extent that it was necessary for the safety of the public.

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WEST EUROPE

Socialist vote limits scope of nuclear power in W Germany

From Patricia Clough, Hamburg, Nov 18

Under the pressure of widespread opposition to nuclear power stations, the Social Democratic Party congress has voted to limit the scope of nuclear power in West Germany.

The resolution adopted last night after a long and tough debate, demonstrated a growing tendency in West Germany to put the quality of life and human needs before, or at least on a level with, purely economic considerations. A key question, the resolution said, was "how do we want to live in the future?"

The resolution was a compromise designed to bridge the gulf between the views of Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, who felt himself bound to carry out the Government's nuclear energy programme, and the views of a large section of the party's rank and file.

Fear of nuclear accidents has led to the development of civil action groups which have succeeded in halting the building of nuclear power stations through court injunctions.

Under the compromise, the Government would aim at covering West Germany's increased energy needs for the next 10 years by a combination of nuclear power and other sources.

The resolution also called for a study of the possibility of building a new type of nuclear reactor, which would be safer and cheaper than the present type.

In practice this means that no new nuclear power stations can be approved for at least two years, the time it would take to build temporary storage centres.

Meanwhile, however, the six controversial power stations whose construction has been suspended, may be completed providing the courts agree. But again they may not go into action until the storage centres are ready.

The resolution appears compatible with one approved by the Social Democratic coalition partners, the Free Democrats, at their party congress in Kiel last week. Their motion was similar on most points except that it did not foresee the increased use of coal.

The Social Democrats compromise, however, left many people dissatisfied and many problems still open. Coal has the advantage of being plentiful in West Germany, experts say there is enough to last 200 to 300 years. It is, therefore, not subject to uncontrollable price increases like oil. It was the "oil shock" earlier this decade which prompted the Government to look to nuclear energy.

But West German coal lies deep, it is expensive to mine and uneconomic if used far from the mining areas such as the Ruhr and the Saarland. New mining techniques will be needed to produce the 35 million tons which the Social Democrats want turned into energy each year, and ways will have to be found to keep pollution within the limits set by law.

Critics fear that it will not be possible to build new coal fired stations or rebuild the existing ones to cover the increased requirements of the next few years.

The party today re-elected Herr Willy Brandt, the former Chancellor, as its president by an overwhelming majority. Herr Schmidt was re-elected as one of the vice-presidents.

Some of the organizers had been made aware of the danger arising from too pronounced a point of view at the inception. They were bothered by the Soviet intervention aimed at having the whole idea of a Biennale rejected by the Government and denied funds. They felt to be sincere misgivings in East Europe about the objects of the Biennale.

With luck the Biennale might settle the matter by remaining three weeks to reflect on the few preconceptions the important subject which it has chosen to treat.

Organizational difficulties were inevitable because of the Biennale's efforts to bring the Biennale's way. There is the point, for instance, in showing examples of clandestine literature without catalogues which apparently are due to arrive later.

The film section has produced some real impact. At the showing of Costa Gavras' horrifying film *The Confession*, Mr Arthur London, a former Czechoslovak Minister, was present. He was a crowd of right-wing demonstrators in the city, a fact which may have precipitated his withdrawal. He is now to undertake the necessary studies for promotion to the rank of general.

Stations at a time a moment in the country's political life have had no effect. They came both from the Government and from the President, who said that the Biennale was a "cultural event" and that it was not the business of the Government to interfere with it.

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Dissidents at odds in Venice debate

From Peter Nichols, Rome, Nov 18

The first part of the Venice Biennale's adventurous journey into anti-Soviet dissent ended today with the closing of the Biennale's historical symposium which has served to show, if nothing else, that dissidents are a very mixed collection of people indeed.

One of the last and most striking statements came from Mr Leonid Plush, the Ukrainian mathematician, who said that President Brezhnev was a fascist at the head of a socialist state.

Mr Plush remains a Marxist despite his outbursts. He was clearly not impressed by the debate whether the Soviet Union could be regarded as socialist.

The reasoning of Mr Plush was more flexible than the opening report to the symposium made by Professor Leonid Kolakowski, the Polish philosopher now at Oxford University, who stated that communism from its inception was a totalitarian project.

Whatever its intrinsic qualities, the door to the door to indignation from members of the British and Italian communist parties who sought to argue that the founders of communism had had democratic intentions, and that broader view should be taken than the Biennale was providing of the whole communist experience.

Another Polish exile, Mr Wlodzimierz Brus, was against the communist parties present to declare their views on the socialist nature, or otherwise, of the Soviet Union. There was the temptation of rejecting what was subjectively discredited, non-socialist, and accepting as socialist only what was attractive. The important point was to assess what was happening.

Some of the organizers had been made aware of the danger arising from too pronounced a point of view at the inception. They were bothered by the Soviet intervention aimed at having the whole idea of a Biennale rejected by the Government and denied funds. They felt to be sincere misgivings in East Europe about the objects of the Biennale.

With luck the Biennale might settle the matter by remaining three weeks to reflect on the few preconceptions the important subject which it has chosen to treat.

Organizational difficulties were inevitable because of the Biennale's efforts to bring the Biennale's way. There is the point, for instance, in showing examples of clandestine literature without catalogues which apparently are due to arrive later.

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OVERSEAS



A welcome at Ben-Gurion airport, Tel. Aviv, for Mr Hassan Kamel (left), director of Mr Sadat's Cabinet, who arrived yesterday to prepare for the President's visit.

Syria proclaims a day of mourning and Libya threatens to boycott Egypt

By Our Foreign Staff

President Sadat of Egypt found himself virtually friendless in the Arab world yesterday after his decision to accept a formal invitation from Mr Begin, Prime Minister of Israel, to visit Israel and address its Parliament on Sunday.

At best Arab governments remained silent; at worst, they branded Mr Sadat a traitor. Some reactions were:

Tripoli: Libya will no longer recognize the Egyptian Government and call for its exclusion from the Arab League if President Sadat goes ahead with his visit, the People's General Congress said after a special sitting.

His decision was an "unbelievable shock" and an "unpardonable crime" against past and future Arab generations. Even if Mr Sadat was able as a result of his visit to obtain a free and independent Palestine, the shame of using such a "humiliating" method would outweigh that gain.

It would be preferable for Palestine to remain occupied for ever rather than be spilled by such shame.

The congress said Libya would ask for Arab League headquarters to be moved from Cairo and would enforce boycott regulations against Egypt.

Damascus: Syria declared Saturday a national day of mourning because of the visit. "Tomorrow, coinciding with Sadat's visit to Israel, will be a day of general and national mourning in Syria to express the anger of the people against the visit," a government statement said.

Baghdad: Saudi Arabia said, "Behaviour whose means are uncoordinated with the general Arab stand" had placed the Arab world in a "delicate position."

Saudi Arabia believes any Arab initiative must stem from a united Arab stand, a government statement said.

Baghdad: Mr Hammadi, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, criticized Arab Governments that sought a settlement with the "Zionist enemy," when he returned from the Arab foreign ministers' conference in Tunisia.

Without naming President Sadat, he accused such governments of being at the root of differences and divisions in Arab ranks.

Paris: The Shah of Iran wished President Sadat good luck. "It is a courageous initiative," he said.

Mr Kruger later today had a private discussion with Brigadier C. F. Zietman, head of the security police, to find out how the information about Mr Biko's supposed hunger strike could have reached the minister.

Council for the Biko family suffered a further setback during today's hearing when the magistrate declined to uphold an objection by Mr Kenridge that handwritten statements by two of Mr Biko's colleagues should be admitted as evidence.

The statements, allegedly written by Mr Peter Jones and Mr Patrick Titi, were produced by Mr Van Rooyen in an attempt to prove that such documents had in fact been shown to Mr Biko during his interrogation. Earlier in the inquiry Mr Prins had refused to accept similar typewritten statements as evidence on the ground that they were dated after Mr Biko's death.

Mr Kruger to pay £2,000 damages to editor

By Our Foreign Staff

Durban, Nov 18.—Mr James Kruger, the South African Justice Minister, today agreed to pay £2,000 (R2,000) damages to the editor of the Durban Daily News and now editor of the Argus, Cape Town.

The claim arose out of the arrest of Mr O'Malley at a wine tasting ceremony in a Durban hotel on the evening of September 24, 1974, on a charge of contravening the Riotous Assemblies Act.

The charge related to publication of an article in the Daily News that day about the planned arrest of Mr Kruger in support of Frelimo, the Mozambique nationalist movement which has since formed the Government after independence.

Mr O'Malley was subsequently acquitted of the charge. In March 1975, Mr O'Malley lodged a Supreme Court action against Mr Kruger for wrongful arrest and damages for personal and ministerial capacities claiming 10,000 rand for wrongful arrest. The action was due to have begun here next Monday.

In consent notice signed by representatives of both parties, Mr Kruger acknowledged that the arrest warrant against Mr O'Malley was invalid because of a technical defect "which came about in circumstances beyond the effective personal control of the minister."

Mr O'Malley acknowledged that the minister "at all times acted entirely in good faith and without any personal ill will or malice."—Reuters.

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Another S African police detainee dies as Biko inquest continues

From Nicholas Ashford, Pretoria, Nov 18

Legal arguments and rulings on the admissibility of statements, including statements made by Mr James Kruger, the Minister of Justice, dominated the fifth day of the inquest into the death of Steve Biko, the South African black consciousness leader.

Mr M. J. Prins, the Transvaal Chief Magistrate, who is presiding over the inquest, ruled that statements made by Mr Kruger following Mr Biko's death on September 12 while in police custody were not admissible as evidence.

He later allowed counsel for the police, Mr P. R. Van Rooyen, to hand in written statements by two of Mr Biko's alleged accomplices. The police maintained that these statements were shown to Mr Biko while he was being questioned by Port Elizabeth security police, causing him to go berserk and assault his interrogators.

The inquest has been called to determine how Mr Biko died and whether anyone was responsible. Mr Biko was 27, a township person to the district, last year and a half while in police custody.

Today the death of another detainee, Mr Bonaventura Sipho, was also discussed. Mr Sipho was a 28-year-old man who was arrested by the police in the cell where he was being held in Krugersdorp, west of Johannesburg. He was detained for questioning by the police last July.

When the hearing opened this morning Mr Prins ruled that statements made by Mr Kruger were irrelevant to the purposes of the court. He said it was impossible to see how the minister could assist the inquest in its purpose of ascertaining how Mr Biko died.

He also said that the minister's statements could only be considered as hearsay. "I therefore say that such remote hearsay of the minister cannot be tolerated in a tribunal of this nature and I therefore cannot allow it."

Yesterday counsel for the Biko family, Mr Sydney Kenridge, said that Mr Kruger should be called if necessary to establish how he had come by incorrect information in his statements to the press.

Mr Kruger had said that Mr Biko had been on a hunger strike. Mr Kenridge contended that the information could have only come from the head of the Eastern Cape security police, Colonel Gosen. He said that as this indicated a "cover up" it was relevant to Colonel Gosen's credibility.

Mr Kenridge later today had a private discussion with Brigadier C. F. Zietman, head of the security police, to find out how the information about Mr Biko's supposed hunger strike could have reached the minister.

Council for the Biko family suffered a further setback during today's hearing when the magistrate declined to uphold an objection by Mr Kenridge that handwritten statements by two of Mr Biko's colleagues should be admitted as evidence.

The statements, allegedly written by Mr Peter Jones and Mr Patrick Titi, were produced by Mr Van Rooyen in an attempt to prove that such documents had in fact been shown to Mr Biko during his interrogation. Earlier in the inquiry Mr Prins had refused to accept similar typewritten statements as evidence on the ground that they were dated after Mr Biko's death.

Mr Van Rooyen submitted that when these documents were shown to Mr Biko, he realized that he had been betrayed by his friends and this resulted in the struggle during which he could have sustained his fatal injury.

Mr Kenridge opposed their admission to the grounds that as the two people who were supposed to have made the statements were currently detained under section 6 of the Terrorism Act, they could not be called to give evidence. No access may be had to section 6 detainees, not even by a court of law. Mr Kenridge maintained that it was the duty of the court to try to establish the truth of the matter.

During today's hearing the court also heard evidence from a Port Elizabeth prison warden and from the security policeman who had been on duty at the night before Mr Biko had been involved in his struggle with the police.

The warden, Mr Johan Fitcher, said that Mr Biko had consumed a bowl of Pappa-mama (a sugar-baked cake) and two glasses of water three days before his death. Mr Biko, he said, had wanted to kiss him for providing him with such refreshment. He said that he had seen Mr Biko doing exercises in his cell on September 9 and that he did not appear unsteady on his feet.

Lieutenant Winston Wilken denoted that his task had been to interrogate Mr Biko during the night. He said his instructions were to let Mr Biko rest. He said Mr Biko had slept most of the time while he was on duty.

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Dr Soares calls for unity to face economic plight

From Jose Sbercliff, Lisbon, Nov 18

Dr Soares, the Socialist Prime Minister, created a new political situation in Portugal yesterday by threatening to resign if the Opposition did not collaborate by November 30 with his programme to solve the country's dire economic and financial problems.

He had earlier handed to all party leaders a document outlining proposals for a programme on which all parties could unite. But in Parliament yesterday he made no offer to modify the go-it-alone policy of his Government.

Dr Soares did, however, admit the possibility that another government might be formed, raising some hopes in the Opposition that somebody might lead it. These hopes were dashed when the Prime Minister made it clear that he expected to be chosen again.

It appears that warnings of the dangers of public demonstration in the country's political life have had no effect. They came both from the Government and from the President, who said that the Biennale was a "cultural event" and that it was not the business of the Government to interfere with it.

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OVERSEAS

President Park accused by former supporter of damaging relations with the United States

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, Nov 18

Taking the regime in Seoul by surprise, Dr Choi Duk Shin, former Foreign Minister of South Korea, delivered a scathing attack on President Park Cheung Hee in Tokyo today as he joined the swelling ranks of Korean dissidents in exile.

Dr Choi, formerly a career soldier who rose to the rank of lieutenant-general during the Korean war, was Foreign Minister from 1961 to 1963, shortly after President Park staged a military coup to oust the previous civilian Government.

Dr Choi, who is 63, also served President Park's regime as Ambassador to West Germany in the 1960s.

Denouncing his former political mentor at a press conference, he said he had decided to come out in the open and fight for democratic rights in South Korea because, among other things, President Park now regards the state as his private property.

Dr Choi claimed that the authoritarian Seoul had not only repressed human rights in the country but relations with "our main ally (the United States) are now on the verge of total collapse."

Sources close to the Korean Embassy in Tokyo claim that Dr Choi's unexpected announcement "more than upset" President Park's regime in Seoul.

Dr Choi, who is living in the United States, said that Seoul's relations with Washington had deteriorated because President Park's regime had attempted to use a Korean businessman, Mr Park Tong Sun, to pass on bribes and buy the favours of prominent American politicians.

The United States Department of Justice has set up a committee to investigate the matter. Accusations that the Korean Central Intelligence Agency has passed on bribes to senior American congressmen, were supported in court earlier this year by a former Korean diplomat who defected in Washington. The inquiry was, however, thwarted in recent weeks when the Korean Government refused to return Mr Park Tong Sun to Washington for questioning.

Dr Choi told his press conference: "It has been clear from the start that the operation to bribe American congressmen and even members of the American President's staff was not undertaken by Mr Park Tong Sun as an individual. It could only have been undertaken in close cooperation with the Korean Foreign Ministry and the Korean Central Intelligence Agency."

"Everyone knows that President Park ordered the operation and our relations with the United States cannot be

expected to improve while he remains in power."

Dr Choi remained close to President Park's regime as an advisor to the Ministry for Reunification until two years ago, other dissidents in Tokyo pointed out today.

Explaining why he has decided to join the Korean Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, Dr Choi said that he had been asked to join the dissidents in 1973 when President Park's opponents issued a statement deploring the collapse of the rule of law.

He did not join them then and I regret it. Since that time repression has become worse and Park's style of dictatorial rule is even beginning to threaten our friendly relations with our allies."

He had been driven into a decision by many factors: "Park has been treating his people with brutality. There are many examples: the abduction of Mr Kim Dae Jung, the death sentences meted out to people arrested on the basis of highly suspect evidence of visiting North Korea, and the execution of so-called members of the Revolutionary Party."

"They were framed, in Park's own words, to strike fear into the hearts of the people. He has even attempted to brand national leaders, including the former President Yun Po Sun, as criminals."



Mr. Phillip Lynch: "Selfless" act praised

New blow to Fraser poll hopes

From Douglas Aitken
Melbourne, Nov 18

The Australian Government's run of mishaps reached a crescendo today with the resignation of Mr Phillip Lynch, as Federal Treasurer, and the publication of a Gallup Poll saying that the Labour Party might have won the election had it been held over either of the past two weekends.

Mr Lynch's resignation followed allegations in the Victoria Parliament earlier this week that he had made a \$A110,000 (£63,000) profit from land deals outside Melbourne and bought a house in the Queensland coast with the proceeds.

Today Mr Lynch announced his resignation from his bed in a Melbourne hospital where he has had an operation for a kidney disorder. In his resignation letter he maintained that he had not sought any financial gain from his official position.

In his reply Mr Fraser agreed that Mr Lynch had not acted improperly and praised him for his "selfless" act in resigning.

In the meantime, Mr John Howard, the Business and Consumer Affairs Minister, who is 38, has been appointed Treasurer.

The Gallup Poll, published in the *Melbourne Herald*, will further damage the Liberals but it is not altogether surprising. Since Mr Fraser's announcement of an election the Liberals' support has been steadily slipping.

Unemployment figures, adverse results in the Victoria by-election and the Queensland election and the emergence of the new centre party, the Australian Democrats, have all affected the Government.

Today's Gallup Poll showed that over the past two weeks the Labor Party have received 43 per cent of the vote, 3 per cent more than in the 1975 election, and the Government 43 per cent, 10 per cent less.

PARLIAMENT, November 18, 1977

Mr Benn clashes with Tories over N Sea oil

House of Commons

Dr Dickson Mather, Minister of State for Energy (Greenwich and Port Glasgow), moving the second reading of the Participations in Agreements Bill, said it removed an element of doubt concerning the relationship between restrictive trade practices legislation and the Government's policy of majority stakes in North Sea oil fields.

Participation agreements had now been agreed with 41 companies. Of these, 10 agreements covering 17 companies were in force and the rest were still required technical clearance.

In each agreement the British National Oil Company was accepted by the other companies as licensee.

BNO had the right to take up to 51 per cent of each company's share of petroleum produced under the licence. The agreements contained a formula for agreeing the price of oil.

There were bound to be differences of interest between the licensee and the companies, Mr Mather said. Previous administrations had worked on the assumption that the oil companies should perhaps be left to pursue their own interests.

The Bill provided for exemption for all participation agreements from the restrictive trade practices legislation. The Government's policy was to ensure that the oil companies were not in a position to exercise their market power.

The Bill had retrospective effect because it was necessary to cover all participation agreements entered into since the Government's policy was announced. The Bill had retrospective effect because it was necessary to cover all participation agreements entered into since the Government's policy was announced.

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modded the general assent of the oil industry. Neither the Government nor the companies would wish the agreement, so carefully worked out, over months of effort, to be put at risk by doubts about their status under the Restrictive Trade Practices Act. That was why the Bill was introduced.

Mr Hamish Gray, an Opposition spokesman on energy (Ross and Cromarty, C) said it was important to remove any doubt relating to the validity of participation agreements already made with the companies. For that reason, the Opposition would not seek to tie to hold on the Bill, but it did need amending.

It was a small Bill but behind its innocent appearance there were parts that needed careful probing. It placed great power into the hands of the Secretary of State over licensing and the industry itself. It removed all the safeguards of the Restrictive Trade Practices Act over the exercise of the Secretary of State.

Regrettably there was little evidence that Mr Benn had interpreted the broad national interest as anything other than the imposition of doctrinaire socialism in the guise of control over the industry.

The success of the exploration of the North Sea had been a success for private enterprise, achieved despite the BNO and not because of it.

Mr Hugh Dykes (Harrow, East, C) said he was an adviser to a small British independent oil company. It could not be denied that there were companies, boards and individuals who were involved in the idea of empire building by senior BNO officials and the dictatorial attitude in general terms.

He hoped that the Secretary of State would deal with the point about whether this proposed legislation infringed any of the EEC laws on competition policy. With the EEC Secretary of State must wish to assuage any worries in the EEC Commission that this kind of legislation might infringe the Treaty of Rome.

Mr Benn said his interpretation of it was that the Conservative Central Office had been seeking to

before middle age—his humanity, his self-deprecation, his humour and readiness to excuse those who were not like him. It was an extraordinary demonstration of his unquenchable nature of the human spirit and of man's ability to overcome adversity with humanity.

The treatment of a person suffering from mental disorder might be aggressive, but such treatment was necessary if it was to be deeply damaging. It was not easy to imagine the effect of incarceration in a hospital with the general public.

Mr Jan Broekers (Netherlands, S) said there was no need to make a distinction between the use of psychiatric medicine against political prisoners was an indignity to the human race.

Mr E. W. Miller (West Dorset, C) said he hoped that Mr Dailly would be followed on other occasions when they heard the Secretary of State's views on the use of psychiatric medicine against political prisoners.

Lord Bethell (United Kingdom, C) said that extremely reliable work had been done by the experts in the field of psychiatric medicine. It was not possible for anyone in the House to doubt the truth of what he had said.

Mr Dailly, indicating he was speaking in a personal capacity, said this was an abuse of Parliament's agenda. The motion raised for some time the question of whether it should be the business of the European Parliament to lecture Mother Russia on how she should treat her own citizens.

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Mr Peter Viggers (Gosport, C) said the Government's participation policy had committed Britain to a policy of high oil prices.

Mr John Hamman, an Opposition spokesman (Exeter, C) said here they had a politically motivated attempt to weaken the BNO for the benefit of the oil companies. The Conservatives really represented and had done from the beginning of the Government's oil policy.

The Labour Government inherited an oil policy that utterly betrayed the interests of the British people. There was no participation under which the British people could have enjoyed their oil either physically or an appropriate share of the revenues.

From the beginning and throughout systematically, the Conservative Government had betrayed the interests of the oil companies against the interests of the British people.

Mr Gray—if the terms of the licences which were awarded by the Conservative Government had been as attractive as they were, Mr Benn would not be reaping the benefit of North Sea oil today. At that time, if one goes back a decade or less, one thinks of the potential of North Sea oil, there were certainly those who had great confidence in it but many people would not have been attracted to it.

Capital had to be attracted into the North Sea; therefore it was essential that attractive terms were given.

Mr Benn said he thought the oil companies were a push-over. Every little squeak that came from them was a cry to get set for a new round of negotiations. But the Opposition took it up and trumpeted it as if it were the cry of the world. The oil companies forgot it and moved on.

The Opposition (he said) are not fit to safeguard our interest against the oil companies.

The Bill was read a second time.

House adjourned 3 pm.

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Mr Karamanlis makes final appeal to voters

From Mario Modiano
Athens, Nov 18

Mr Karamanlis, the Greek Prime Minister, told a vast campaign rally in Athens tonight that the stakes in Sunday's general election were the future of Greece. There were three crucial issues: the dispute with Turkey, the Cyprus tragedy, and entry in the EEC.

All the other problems will be resolved eventually," he said. "But it is against hope, these issues turn out, then our country will move backwards in all fields. Above all, it will be exposed to mortal dangers."

The choice on Sunday was between the men to whom the handling of these vital issues would be entrusted.

Mr Karamanlis was addressing the last mass rally of the Greek election campaign which was held in the Athens Constitution Square, facing the floodlit parliament building, was packed with supporters of the ruling New Democracy Party, cheering and waving blue party banners and Greek flags.

The party was clearly making an all-out effort to outmatch a huge mass meeting staged by Mr Andreas Papandreu's opposition party Pask in the central square of Wednesday, it only out of pride.

Attendance at pre-election meetings has never been an

accurate barometer of voters' intentions. As one Greek newspaper put it: "Mr Papandreu has to have more admirers than voters."

Mr Karamanlis was evidently incensed by the strong and persistent invective launched by opposition parties against his Government's performance and the lavishness of their promises. He said: "I refuse to impute my opponents by indulging in demagoguery. I would rather face a slight defeat than a degrading victory."

He deplored the policies of Mr Papandreu which, he said, were "dangerous for the future of Greece, not because he wants to harm the country but because he has a distorted view of what is good for it."

Referring to the Greek-Turkish dispute, Mr Karamanlis said Greece wanted the peaceful settlement of its differences with Turkey.

"However, this depends on the behaviour of our neighbour, who so far gives little ground," he said. "If Turkey's unwillingness to proceed to a serious and responsible dialogue continues, the crisis in our relations might be prolonged and eventually lead to a state of war which would be painful to both our peoples."

Greeks will have tomorrow to meditate before going to the polls on Sunday.

Zambian and Tanzanian leaders meet

Lusaka, Nov 18.—President Kaunda of Zambia and President Nyerere of Tanzania met at Mbale, a remote air base in north-eastern Zambia, today for talks on Rhodesia.

The talks apparently involved Senior Raul Valdes Vivas, a member of the central committee of the Cuban Communist Party, who accompanied Dr Kaunda to Mbale, Zambian and Cuban officers at Lusaka airport refused to comment on Senior Vivas's presence on board the presidential plane.

He arrived in Zambia a few days ago with a message for President Kaunda from President Castro. Details of the message have been kept secret.

Mr Sime Mwale, Zambian Foreign Minister, today hinted that a ceasefire declared in Rhodesia's guerrilla war would not necessarily immediately lead to peace.

Speaking to journalists before leaving Lusaka, Mr Mwale said that political elections in Rhodesia should take place when peace and calm had been restored and not immediately after a ceasefire.

"telling people to hold elections is a dangerous exercise because various groups in Rhodesia will begin killing each other"—Agence France-Press.

Release of political prisoners lowers Malawi tension

From Michael Hughes
Lilongwe, Nov 18

After 13 years of absolute rule, Life President Kamuzu Banda of Malawi is easing his grip on the country. Over the past year almost all the 2,000 political prisoners jailed for alleged opposition to the President have been released.

Expatriate workers say they have noticed a lackening of tension, which was heightened last year when the Goan community of 100 was expelled without any reason being given. Other Asians were forced to give up retail businesses in rural areas.

The enigmatic Dr Banda has now invited foreign journalists, whom he says he dislikes intensely, to visit Malawi after barring them for years. He has also abandoned the policy of dialogue and contact with South Africa, which has made him the odd man out of black African politics.

Since independence in 1964, Dr Banda has made Malawi the most efficient black African states and created a personality cult which is colourful but a little overpowering.

The President, who is in his seventh decade, makes every public appearance an occasion with scores of singing, dancing women surrounding his open estate car. The women literally sing the President's praises.

The President's speeches tend to be rambling and paternalistic. They usually include exhortations to work harder and reminiscences of pre-independence days. He has banned mini-skirts and trousers for women and long hair for men.

Despite Dr Banda's evident fear of a challenge to his leadership, no opposition is discernible within Malawi. Outside the country, his main opponents are two former ministers, Mr Kanyama Chiume and Mr Orton Chirwa, now based in Tanzania.

They were dismissed two months after independence when Dr Banda accused them of plotting to seize power with the aid of Chinese communists.

Despite Dr Banda's age, estimated at between 72 and 78, there are no heirs apparent. Observers believe that in the event of the President's death, the rigid structure of the Congress Party would prevent widespread unrest, although there could be a power struggle in the party's upper ranks.

Malawi is landlocked and without minerals except for unexploited low-grade coal in the north. It is still a very poor country and has only recently topped the \$100 (£50) per capita income rate. None the less, the standard of living has greatly improved since independence.

In agriculture there has been a steady growth rate and more and more smallholders have progressed from subsistence farming to cash crops.

The President's open dealings with South Africa have been called pragmatic by his friends and opportunist by his enemies.

But as Dr Banda emphasises in his speeches he has an impeccable black nationalist credentials.

He led opposition to the 1953 Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, as Malawi was part of the federation, and has only recently been welcomed back from Britain, and was jailed in Rhodesia for a year.—Reuters.

Law Report November 18 1977

Compensation for a husband's 'lost years'

Pickett v British Rail Engineering Ltd

Before Lord Denning Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Lawton and Lord Justice Megaw (Judgments delivered Nov 14)

Where a man has suffered a severe accident or disease at work and has been unable to live, it may be wise to start the action but to postpone it so that he does not get a judgment during his life, his dependants, his personal representatives can continue the action and bring a claim under the Fatal Accidents Act for the dependants.

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Saturday Review

GOVERNOR FULLER!
Why Did You Call Me
Business Liars?

The never-ending wrong by Katherine Anne Porter

For several years in the early 1920s when I was living part of the time in Mexico, on each return to New York I would follow again the strange history of the Italian emigrants Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, a fishmonger, who were accused of a most brutal hold-up of a payroll truck, with murder, in South Braintree, Massachusetts, in the early afternoon of April 15, 1920. They were tried before a Massachusetts court and condemned to death about 18 months later.

The case of Sacco and Vanzetti began obscurely and ended as one of the important turning points in the history of this country; not the cause, but the symptom of a change so deep and so sinister in the whole point of view and direction of this people as a nation that I for one am not competent to analyse it. I only know what happened by what has happened to us since, by remembering what we were, or what many of us believed we were, before. We were men of a different cast of mind and feeling than we are now, or such a thing as the Sacco-Vanzetti protest could have been brought about by any means; and I much doubt such a commotion could be roused again for any merciful cause at all among us.

If there really was a South Braintree gang as it is claimed, to which two Anarchists belonged, it seems to have been a small affair operating under rather clumsy leadership; its real crime seems not to have been exactly robbery and murder, but political heresy: they were Anarchists. It was said they robbed and murdered to get funds for their organization—in this case, Anarchy—another variation on the Robin Hood myth.

Anarchy had been a word of fear in many countries for a long time, however much it was in this one; nothing in that time, not even the word "Communism", struck such terror, anger and hatred into the popular mind; and nobody seemed to understand exactly what Anarchy as a political idea meant any more than they understood Communism.

On May 15, 1927, Nicola Sacco wrote from the prison in Charlestown, where he had been in and out of the death cell since July 1921, to his friend, the poet, Louis Untermeyer: "I frankly tell you, dear friend, that if he [Governor Fuller of Massachusetts] has a chance he'll hang us, and it is no bad to see you and all the other good friends of the optimism while today we are facing the electric chair."

Bartolomeo Vanzetti, his fellow prisoner, wrote as early as 1924, after four years in prison under sentence of death, with a reprieve: "I am tired, tired, tired. I want to live here now, the land of life, not rather than wisdom or heroism mere cowardness." He did consent to live on: he wished so dearly to live that he let his life be taken from him rather than take it himself. Yet near the end, he arrived apparently without help at a profound, painful understanding: "When one has reason to despair and he despairs not, he may be more absorbed than if he would despair."

They were put to death in the electric chair at Charlestown Prison at midnight on August 23, 1927, a desolate dark midnight, a night for perpetual remembrance and mourning. I was one of the many hundreds who stood in anxious vigil watching the light in the prison tower, which we had been told would fall at the moment of death: it was a moment of strange heartbreak.

It is clear now that the condemned men understood and realized their predicament much better than any individual working with any organization devoted to their rescue. Their friends from a more fortunate destiny had confidence in their own power to get what they asked of their society, their government; courts were not sacrosanct, they could be mistaken; it was a civic duty now and then to protest their judgments, persuade them, by one means or another, to reverse their sentences. The two labouring men, who had managed to survive and scramble up a few steps from nearly the bottom level of life, knew well from the beginning that they had every



Top: Katherine Anne Porter protesting in 1924. Above: Vanzetti (second from right), and Sacco (third from right) on one of their daily trips back to jail from the Dedham courthouse.

reason to despair, they did not really trust these strangers from the upper world who hurried to the courts, the politicians to the offices, the faculties to the universities, who had all the money and the influence—why should they be running against their own class to defend two labourers?

Sacco wrote to Catherine Jackson, member of an upper-middle-class family, rich enough and ardent enough to devote his means and his time to the Sacco-Vanzetti Defence Committee: "Although we are one heart, unfortunately we represent two opposite classes. What they may not have known—we can only hope they did not know—was that some of the groups apparently working for them, people of their own class in many cases, were using the occasion for communist propaganda and hoping only for their death as a political argument. I know this because I heard and saw. By chance and nothing else I was with a committee from the communist line of defence. The exact title is of no importance. It was a mere splinter group from the national and world organization. It was quiet, discreet, at times the action seemed to be moving rather in circles; most of the volunteers, for we were all that, were no more communists than I was. A young man who did a lot of running about, on what errands I never tried to discover, expressed what goes on in the mind of many of us: 'We were working under communist direction.' 'Well, what of it? If he's fighting on my side, I'll go with the Devil!'

It was the popular way of talking and a point of view fatal to any moral force of any kind. 'We were working under communist direction.' It was only a kind of catchphrase, but a symptom of the confusion of the times, the loss and denial of standards, the scrambling of boundary lines, and the whole evil trend toward reducing everything human to the mud

of the lowest common denominator.

My group was headed by Rosa Barón, a dry, fastidious little woman who wore thick-lensed spectacles over her blue, accusing eyes—a born whip hand, who talked an almost impenetrable jargon of petty dogma. There were many such groups, for this demonstration had been organized and prepared for many years by the communists. They had not originated the protest, I believe, but had joined in and tried to take over, as their policy was, and is. Their presence created the same confusion, obfuscating the issue and discrediting the cause, as it always had done and as they intended it to do. It appeared in its true form and on its most disastrous side in Spain later.

They were well organized to promote disorder and to prevent any question ever being settled—but I had not then discovered this; I remarked to our communist leader that even then, at that late time, I still hoped the lives of Sacco and Vanzetti might be saved and that they would be granted another trial. "Saved," she said, ringing a change on her favourite answer to political adversity, "who wants them, say? What earthly good would they do us alive?"

I was another of those bourgeois liberals who got in the way of serious business, yet we were needed, by the thousands if possible, for this great agitation must be made to appear to be a spontaneous uprising of the American people, and for practical reasons, the more non-communists the better. They were all continental bleeders, easily impressed.

Once on the picket line, I took a good look at the crowd moving slowly forward. I wouldn't have expected to see some of them on the same street, much less the same picket line and in the same jail. I knew very few people in that first picket line, but I found no reason to doubt it.

Dos Passos, Paxton Hibben, Michael Gold, Helen O'Loach, John Crowe, James Rorty, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Willie Gropper, Grace Lumpkin, all very well known then and mostly favourably—most of them have vanished, and I wonder who but me is alive to remember them now? I have a strangely tender memory of them all, as well as the faces of strangers who were being led away by the police.

Each morning I left the hotel, walked into the blinding August sun, and dropped into the picket line before the State House; the police would allow us to march around once or twice then close in and make the arrests we invited; indeed, what else were we there for? My elbow was always taken quickly by the same mild little blond officer, day after day; he was very Irish, very patient, very damned bored with the whole unquestionable show. We always greeted each other politely. It was generally understood that the Pink Tea Squad, white cotton gloves and all, had been assigned to this job, well instructed that in no circumstances were they to forget themselves and whisk a lady with these truncheons, no matter how far she forgot herself in rudeness and contrariness. In fact, I never saw a lady—or a gentleman either—being rude to a policeman in that picket line, nor any act of rudeness from a single policeman. That sort of thing was to come later, from officers on different duty. The first time I was arrested, my policeman and I walked along, staring perplexed, questioning glances at each other; the gulf between us was fixed but not impassable; neither of us wished to deny that the other was a human being, there was no natural hostility between us. I had been brought up in the fixed social belief that the whole police system existed to protect and defend me and all my kind. Without giving this thought any attention, I had found no reason to doubt it.

The picket line was crowded, anxious, and slow-moving. I reached the rounding point before I saw my policeman making his place. I moved out and reached for his arm before we spoke. "You're late," I said, not in the least meaning to be funny. He astonished me by calmly smiling. "Where have we got to hurry for?" he inquired, and my scalp shuddered—we moved on in silence.

This was August 23, the day set for the execution. As we stood waiting in line at the desk, I said, "I expect this will be the last time you'll have to arrest me. You've been very kind and patient and I thank you." I remember the blinding exhaustion of his face, its gray gleam with greenish shadows in it. He said "Thank you," and stood beside me at the desk while my name was written into the record once more. We did not speak or look at each other again, but as I followed the matron to a cell I saw him working his way slowly outward through the crowd.

The same plain, middle-aged, rather officious woman with a gold front tooth always came and put me in a cell and locked the door. Sometimes I was alone in the foggy light and stale air, being forbidden to smoke and wishing for something to read. Sometimes there would be other women, though never once a soul I knew, and we would begin at once to talk, to exchange our gossip and rumours and ideas, for, being in the dead centre of this disturbance, it was quite hard to find out what was really happening. After a time, usually two or three hours, the matron would come with her keys open the door, and say, "Come on out." Out we would come, knowing that Mr. Edward James, Henry James's nephew, was there again, putting up our bail, getting us set free for the next round.

I have only to sort out and

copy these notes down here to realize how long 50 years are, not only in the life of an individual, but of a nation, a world—to realize again, not for the first time, how one sets out for a certain goal and ends at another, different, unforeseen, and too often dismayed. We need restored to us of course that blinded obscured third eye said once to exist in the top of the brain for our guidance. Lacking it we go skidding in great numbers, especially those of us brought up so believably on Judeo-Christian ethics, prone to trust the good faith of our fellows, and therefore vulnerable to betrayal because of our virtues, such as they are; then is to say, our human weaknesses. There are many notes, saved almost at random these long past years, many by mere chance, they were scrambled together in a battered yellow envelope marked Sacco-Vanzetti, and had worked their way to the bottom of many a basket of papers in many a change of houses, cities, and even a change of country.

They are my personal experiences of the whirlwinds of change that brought Lenin, Stalin, Mussolini, Franco, and Hitler crowded into one half a century or less; and my understanding of this event in Boston as one of the most portentous in the long death of the civilization made by Europeans in the Western world, in the millennial upheaval which brings always every possible change but one—the two nearly matched forces of human nature, the will to give life and the will to destroy it. So, at that time and after what I have learned since, it seems strange that I was not better informed at Boston about my committee until I arrived there and was seized at a typewriter copying the Sacco and Vanzetti letters to the world. However, I was not informed and I did not ask, and this is a story of what happened, not what should have been.

After more than half a long

lifetime, I find that any recollection, however vivid and lasting, must unavoidably be mixed with many afterthoughts. It is hard to remember anything perfectly straight, accurate, no matter whether it was painful or pleasant at that time. I find that I remember best just what I felt and thought about this event in its own time, in its inalterable setting; my impressions of this occasion remain fast, no matter how many reviews or recollections or how many afterthoughts have added themselves with the years. It is 50 years, very long ones, since Sacco and Vanzetti were put to death in Boston, accused and convicted of a bitter crime, of which, it is still claimed, they may or may not have been guilty. I did not know then whether they were guilty (in white of reading at this late date the learned, stupendous, deeply human work of attorney Herbert B. Ehrmann), but still I had my reasons for being there to protest the terrible penalty they were condemned to suffer, these reasons were of the heart, which I believe appears in these pages with emphasis. The core of this account of that fearful episode was written nearly a half-century ago, during the time in Boston and later; for years I refused to read, to talk or listen, because I couldn't endure the memory—I wanted to escape from it. Some of the account was written at the scene of the tragedy itself and except for a word or two here and there in those early notes, where I have added a line in the hope of a clearer statement, it is unchanged in feeling and point of view. The evils prophesied by that crisis have all come true and are enormous in weight and variety.

A last, huge rally took place the night before the execution, with Rosa Sacco and Luigia Vanzetti, Vanzetti's sister, on the platform. Luigia had been brought from Italy and taken through Paris, where she had been photographed as she was marched through the streets at the head of an enormous crowd—the gaunt, striding figure of a middle-aged, plain woman who looked more like a prisoner herself than the leader of a public protest. Now they brought her forward with Mrs. Sacco and the two timid women faced the raging crowd, mostly Italians, who rose at them in savage sympathy, shouting, tears pouring down their faces, shaking their fists and calling childish phrases, their promises of revenge for their wrongs. "Never you mind, Rosina! You wait, Luigia! They'll pay, they'll pay! Don't be afraid!" Rosa Sacco spread her hands over her face, but Luigia Vanzetti stared stonily down into their distorted faces with a pure horror in her own. They screamed their violence at her in her own language, trying to hearten her, but she was not consoled. She was led away like a corpse walking. The crowd roared and cursed and wept and threatened. It was the most awesome, the most bitter scene I had ever witnessed.

After Mr. James had bailed us out for the last time, we returned to the hotel and got ready to go to the Charlestown Prison, where the execution was to take place at midnight. We walked on towards the prison, coming as near as we could, for the crowd was enormous and in the dim light, almost motionless, like crowds seen in a dream. I was never in that place but once, but I seem to remember it was a great open square with the crowd massed back from a centre the police worked constantly to keep clear. They were all mounted on five horses and loaded with pistols and hand grenades and tear gas bombs. They galloped about, bearing down upon anybody who ventured out beyond the edge of the crowd, charging and then pulling their horses up short violently, so that they reared and their forehoofs beat in the air over a human head, but always swerving sharply and coming down on the feet. They were trained, probably, to this spectacular, dangerous-looking performance, but still I know it is very hard to force a good horse to step on any living thing. I have seen them in their stalls at home shudder all over at stepping on a stray, newly hatched chicken. I do not believe the police meant for the heads to crush and crush heads—it possibly was just a very showy technique for intimidating and controlling a mob.

This was not a mob, however. It was a silent, intent assembly of citizens—of anxious people come to bear witness and to protest against the terrible wrong about to be committed, not only against the two men about to die, but against all of us, against our common humanity and our shared will to avert what we believed to be not merely a failure in the use of the instrument of the law, an injustice committed through mere human weakness and misunderstanding, but a blindly arrogant, self-righteous determination not to be moved by any arguments, the obstinate assumption of the infallibility of a handful of men dominated with the vanity of power and gone mad with wounded self-importance.

I cannot even now decide by my own evidence whether or not they were guilty of the crime for which they were put to death. They expressed in their letters many thoughts, if not always noble, at least elevated, exalted even. Their favour and human feelings gave the glow of life to the weary stock phrases of those writing about them, and we do know now, all of us, that the most appalling cruelties are committed by apparently virtuous governments in expectation of a great good to come, never learning that the evil done now is the sure destroyer of the expected good. Yet, no matter what, it was a terrible miscarriage of justice; it was a most reprehensible abuse of legal power, in their attempt to prove that the law is something to be inflicted—not enforced—and that it is above the judgment of the people.

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This extract is adapted from *The Never Ending Wrong* by Katherine Anne Porter, which will be published by Secker & Warburg on December 5 at £2.90.

THE ARTS



Anna Tomowa-Sintow, Rene Kollo and Robert Lloyd

Lohengrin
Covent Garden

William Mann

For all but the most omnivorous, unworldly Wagnerian, *Lohengrin* is one of the master's lesser works, importantly chiefly as a transition from the early Wagner in *The Flying Dutchman* already an opera composer of moment, towards the creator of *The Ring* and the other mature masterpieces from *Die Walküre* onwards. In *Lohengrin*, Wagner is at his most lyrical, his music, notably in the second act, and a quantity of famous songs, much recorded in 78 days.

The drama, when examined, is compelling, not so much the natural resentment of anonymity (an Elsa of spirit needed no hints from Ortrud or Telramund to make her wonder who her mysterious bridegroom might be as the struggle of Old Believers against the new, emerging Christianity, in the pious climate of his day, Wagner was not averse to the religious, but he personalised it through Ortrud, whose malign, vengeful plans are motivated by religious fanaticism, not personal spite.

For Covent Garden picked up the *Lohengrin*, doubtless because something cheap and good was required, and Mr Mann had already

supplied just that, most successfully, with his *Peter Grimes*, a couple of years ago. It is almost sadistic to ask a producer to make a second silk purse out of a sow's other ear, but Mr Mann has done it again, perhaps even more successfully, inasmuch as *Lohengrin* is, of itself, less cogent an opera than *Grimes*.

Whether Mr Mann's plan to produce an opera with lavish, solid scenery, I do not know. His version of *Lohengrin* makes of it a tedious opera, actually palatable and gripping just because he seems aware that, to put it bluntly, foreground is more important than background, properties, costumes and acting make more effect than bulky scenic surroundings.

This *Lohengrin* is played on an empty stage, given form and atmosphere and colour by a few props, costumes and a carefully grouped mass of people (it is eminently a choral opera, though it must not look like a staged oratorio) sensitively lit, with the aid of a few spotlights, which are employed for dramatic disenchanted, as *Lohengrin*'s arrival and final departure.

The costumes contribute much, as when Ortrud and Telramund begin, the second act spread out on the dusty floor, beneath voluminous black cloaks, or when the wedding procession moves towards the cathedral, the spouses in white and gold, like the King, dressed

by a wide cottage of attendants in black. The river Scheldt, in the audience, the swan projected on a glass; *Lohengrin* arrives through a trapdoor in a flash, does Godric, the swan, Missings are only likely in the second act, fearfully grinning, incredulously despairing, ill-fated from the start but long drawn and terrible in death; Bayreuth's Wotan can voice Telramund's words and music with the conviction of an owner. René Kollo, as *Lohengrin*, was in easy, attractive yet heroic voice though the costume gives him a slouchy appearance. Anna Tomowa-Sintow sang most of Elsa's music radiantly, with a slight haze on the lovely voice; she looked perhaps rather succulent for the virginal part, spouse cake with lots of cream and jam where crisp pastry is needed, a Wagnerite might say more Gutruene than Elsa.

Jonathan Sumner's cheery, simple Herald and Robert Lloyd's noble, tender King filled out the fine cast, under Bernard Haitink's direction from the pit the third act prelude went splendidly; elsewhere he played down the dramatic, sometimes disappointingly (the first act prelude, for example) and allowed the projected close of the second act to sag. The magical G major melody, at "Es gibt ein Glück" crept upon the scene with exquisite, warming stealth. His reading needed only a last access of firmness to convey real distinction.

The work is based on music by the seventeenth-century guitarist, Gaspar Sanz. Rodrigo seems just as much haunted by Bach (the 3rd minor Prelude from Book 1 of the 48) in the third.

Of the changed theme, nothing was more welcome than Rouseff's infrequently heard symphonic fragments, *Festin de l'arrivage*, drawn from a ballet score of 1913. It was a fairy land peopled by little creatures such as ants, beetles and butterflies as well as the village of the title (who comes to a sticky and Senzualised conclusion). It often is, the scoring has the same kind of gleaming delicacy as a dew-bespangled spider's web.

Louis Frémaux was on the composer's own wavelength, casting delicate nuances from his players in a performance of refinement and charm.

Besides regularly heard Berlioz and Strauss, the programme also included Walton's *Facade Suite*, not often encountered nowadays on this august platform. It came over with stylish wit and verve, almost as if Walton had been a member of Les Six. If not in the top virtuoso league, the players seem very much at ease with each other and the fluid, tingling baton of their Gallic conductor.

London Mozart Players
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Max Harrison

Perhaps D minor was not the soubre key for Haydn that it was for later composers, even Mozart. At least the first movement of his Symphony No. 80 does not quite live up to its serious opening. Perhaps the London Mozart Players ought to have made that the first movement, for it is the most serious, for although this ensemble of about two dozen performers was nicely balanced, there was a certain lack of tension.

The second movement, an Adagio, made a more consistent impression, and certainly the Minuet is serious. The slow movement, in G major, is a masterpiece, the gait of the Minuet, or at least of its opening phrase, is almost Handel-like. The rhythmic juggling of the final, though, is purely Haydn's, and was played deftly, almost incisively.

This and the other interpretations were directed by Tamas Vassary, who, like several other pianists, has lately taken to conducting. He was also the soloist in Mozart's Concerto K453, written about a year after the Haydn in 1784. Interestingly, his opening orchestral tutti more flexible

than anything in his Haydn performance, and, as usual with Mr Vassary, there was some beautifully fluent piano playing, especially in the cadenzas.

But a firmer hand, was needed on the movement's total shape, and in some of the dialogue between soloist and orchestra it was the keyboard part that received insufficient emphasis. The Andante, though, received a lovely performance, full of brooding sweetness; and if the finale, too, was successful, that may have been because, like the slow movement, it is less overtly symphonic than the first. Here the rhythmic activity heard in Haydn's finale had a lighter touch and every where the music's verbal freshness was preserved, even when the last movement briefly, although never too seriously, got intense.

Louis Hayes Quartet
Ronnie Scott's

Richard Williams

Jazz is pleasantly full of crepuscular figures whose in-crowd reputations far outweigh the size of their output. These minor masters may not be true originals, possessing instead an attitude to the conventions personal enough to allow their work its own distinctive climate, but it is always a pleasure when one of them surfaces in London.

As a young man in the early 1960s, Frank Stronzer was among the most prominent disciples of Charlie Parker, shortly before that group splintered in the face of newer developments. His alto saxophone improvisations were delivered with the then-fashionable hard, fast sound and a firm grasp of the idiom; it was considered a loss when, after a spell with Miles Davis in 1962, he moved to California and out of the jazz mainstream.

Recently he returned to New York and renewed acquaintance with his peers, including the members of the vigorous quartet led by drummer Louis Hayes. Happily, Stronzer's abilities have developed through the quiet advance of his implicitly accurate articulation of semiquaver runs at high tempo is the vehicle for an endless flow of ideas, as he showed during a thorough enunciation of Bronfman's *Invitation*, while his acoustic tone and tenacious phrasing make him a natural blues-player, particularly in partnership with the pianist, Harold Mabern, whose thunderous but carefully structured black-chord solos bring sweat to his brow and cheers from the audience.

Of course Hayes and his admirable bassist, Stafford James, would make a military band swing. Hayes leads from the front with a constant assault of crashing polyrhythms and an insatiable urge to double and redouble tempo. Like his mentor, Art Blakey, he is a loud drummer, but the urgency is always pointed and, while he allows few moments for introspection, the quartet is well balanced and satisfying.

Opposite Hayes is Sandra Kead, a relatively new British singer who is understandably boxed into clichés on modern material but finds relief in the wistful, timeless simplicity of Alas, *Wilder*, and *Edna*, and *Goodbye, John*. She should be encouraged to explore such recondite treasures, which suit her broad contralto and unaffected delivery.

LSO/Shell Tour
Swansea Brangwyn

Kenneth Loveland

It is in the provinces that industrial sponsorship of music can perhaps yield the greatest harvest, helping to build new audiences and discover new talents. Those are precisely the twin objectives of the partnership between Shell UK Oil and the London Symphony Orchestra, involving a tour of five centres outside their London base and promoting the Shell/LSO music scholarship which in its first year has been concerned with wind players, over 400 of whom have been auditioned.

Each concert has approximately featured a wind concert, followed by the presentation by André Previn of the award to the area winner. On Thursday, at Swansea, it was the turn of Mark Howells, the 21-year-old principal oboe of the National Youth Orchestra.

University, will speak, on November 28, on *Anatomia Artistica*, which takes as its departure point investigation in Leonardo's use of the model. On December 1 Dr Kenneth Koele's subject is *Anatomia Naturale*.

Both lectures will be at 6.30 pm at Burlington House.

CBSO
Festival Hall

Joan Chissell

Trouble with the Maudsley Union over players not on contracts caused some last-minute changes in the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's programme last night. But its spirit remained the same. Whereas for their next visit to the South Bank in March they have promised Britten's *War Requiem*, on this occasion they came primarily as entertainers, drawing a large audience with just the right kind of relaxing, weekend assortment. After a hard week's work at the office.

As the Spanish composer Joaquín Rodrigo, is 75 next Tuesday (St Cecilia's day), the orchestra thought to make him a birthday present with his *Fantasia para un Gentilhomme* for guitar and orchestra, written for Segovia in 1954; the more so since he has been here to hear it. Nothing roused more enthusiasm, and understandably, for John Williams caught the music's courtly grace in playing of exceptional poise, purity and controlled brilliance.

Balance and interplay with the orchestra were excellent, not least in the exciting dance section at the end. Although

The Nutcracker

of Wales, who was born at Swansea near by, is at present the student of Evelyn Barbirolli at the Royal Academy of Music, and hopes to continue his studies in Europe.

The concerto at Swansea was Mozart's K191 for the bassoon, itself a remarkable example of youthful genius in its exploitation of all the instrument's possibilities, dexterously played by Michael Chapman. It helped to preserve the family atmosphere of the occasion to recall that Mr Chapman was once a pupil of the renowned Archie Camden, whose son, Anthony Camden, the orchestra's principal oboist, was presiding over the ceremonial part of the evening as chairman of the LSO board.

The LSO, for whom Welsh audiences have a special affection, played superbly in Don Juan. In Mr Previn's lyrically inclined but proudly nationalistic view of the Sibelius Symphony No. 2, integration was occasionally less than perfect, but the sound was magnificent.

Important Leonardo
lectures

Two authorities on Leonardo da Vinci are to give illustrated lectures in connection with the Leonardo exhibition at the Royal Academy. Professor Carlo Pedersoli, of Los Angeles

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18th & 19th C. Violin, 18th & 19th C. Violoncello, 18th & 19th C. Viola, 18th & 19th C. Violino

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Chess Siege of Leningrad

The admirable audacity of grandmaster Viktor Korchnoi is well exemplified by his determination to play the final match in the Candidates series despite the hand injury he suffered in the taxi accident in Yugoslavia. His match against Spassky starts in Belgrade next week and it should be as even a contest as could be imagined.

It is a match of 20 games and should be going on even when the Hastings Chess Congress takes place over the turn of the year. Hence the regrettable fact that neither of our two most recent grandmasters, Keene and Stean, will be playing at Hastings. Both are engaged by Korchnoi to assist him as seconds in his match, no doubt as a recognition of the part they played in helping him to beat Polugaievsky so resoundingly in the semi-final match at Eivan.

Winners of the match is the first to obtain 10½ points. Should there be a tie at the end of the 20 games, then lots are drawn again for colour and the first to score a majority of points in matches of 2 games will win the match.

Who will or should win the match? Well, what seems like ages ago when the quarter-finals started, I thought that Korchnoi would eventually emerge triumphant from the Candidates. This impression was reinforced by his win over Petrosian in the quarter-finals and by Spassky's narrow escape against Hort in the quarter-final at Reykjavik. However, the former world champion, who won the match, is shown by the fact that in the last game of the match, which could equally have decided the outcome in Hort's favour, the Czechoslovak grandmaster had the better of the position when, almost inexplicably, he lost the game by exceeding the time limit.

I thought then that in the semi-finals Korchnoi would defeat Polugaievsky and Spassky, and that the match would be won by Korchnoi, having it seems already lost the match psychologically before the match even started. But Spassky, after connecting against Petrosian, seemed to draw on hidden strengths and won fairly comfortably.

My observation of his play during the match at Geneva, together with some trips to Eivan where the Korchnoi-Polugaievsky match was being played, shook my belief in Korchnoi's eventual triumph and gave me the impression that Spassky had made quite a good recovery from the disastrous defeat he had received at Fischer's hands in 1972.

Unlike all Korchnoi's previous opponents, Boris is not frightened of him. On my return from watching a game at Eivan I expressed my surprise to him at Polugaievsky's weak play. Maybe, I said, he is a fine tournament player but not a good match player. Spassky's reply was a severe one. Neither, he said, is a good match player. When did Viktor really win a good match?

There is also another more recent reason why Spassky has no fear of the outcome of his match against Korchnoi. Both Petrosian and Polugaievsky, Korchnoi's opponents in the quarter and semi-finals, are loyal citizens of the Soviet Union. It was their official duty to play and win well against an enemy of the state like Korchnoi. Korchnoi's words of scorn and defiance for the Soviet Union and all who represented the Soviet Union made their position all the more precarious. Only this could explain some of the timid and weak moves with which they betrayed their psychological weakness.

Spassky, on the other hand, resembles Korchnoi in being a true native of Leningrad. The Leningraders are traditionally the independent and artistically-temperamented people in the Soviet Union. However, though not having gone so far in flouting his state as Korchnoi has in defecting from the Soviet Union, Spassky has never concealed his contempt for the party leaders and time servers in the Soviet Union. He has consistently asserted his independence from officialdom and is indeed at the moment officially resident in France.

Whoever wins the match is due to challenge world champion Anatoly Karpov for the title next year in a match scheduled for May or June. The final terms of this match were settled at the FIDE Central Committee meeting last October at Caracas in Venezuela.

Here the winner is the first player to win six games. Draws are not to count and there is no limit to the number of games that may be played. At first glance these conditions seem a little strange since it was known that Karpov wanted to have a match with a limited number of games. But it would seem that he has agreed to this rather Fischerian concept providing that he is guaranteed a return match within 18 months after losing the title should he do so.

This seems a retrograde step that unduly favours the titleholder. Now the challenger has to fight his way through a cycle of eliminatory tournaments and matches and then has to win two matches in order to gain and keep the title. Long ago, when we instituted the whole scheme of world championship tournaments and matches we all agreed that the return match did not fit in with the system and Borzhnalk, then the titleholder, agreed with this. I fail to see that any new circumstance has arisen to justify this additional burden on a challenger for the world title.

Perhaps such a contingency will not arise for many years. Karpov has shown such outstanding form of late that one doubts whether anybody would be good enough to take the title away from him for the next dozen years, always with the proviso that Bobby Fischer does not return to the fray.

Karpov's secure victory in the recent Scandinavian tournament at Tilberg is a confirmation of this. Here, from that tournament, is the game he won against the Icelandic grandmaster, Fridrik Olafsson. White: Olafsson. Black: Karpov. R1 Opening.

More precise than 6... B-K2 10... B-K2 11... B-K2 12... B-K2 13... B-K2 14... B-K2 15... B-K2 16... B-K2 17... B-K2 18... B-K2 19... B-K2 20... B-K2 21... B-K2 22... B-K2 23... B-K2 24... B-K2 25... B-K2 26... B-K2 27... B-K2 28... B-K2 29... B-K2 30... B-K2 31... B-K2 32... B-K2 33... B-K2 34... B-K2 35... B-K2 36... B-K2 37... B-K2 38... B-K2 39... B-K2 40... B-K2 41... B-K2 42... B-K2 43... B-K2 44... B-K2 45... B-K2 46... B-K2 47... B-K2 48... B-K2 49... B-K2 50... B-K2 51... B-K2 52... B-K2 53... B-K2 54... B-K2 55... B-K2 56... B-K2 57... B-K2 58... B-K2 59... B-K2 60... B-K2 61... B-K2 62... B-K2 63... B-K2 64... B-K2 65... B-K2 66... B-K2 67... B-K2 68... B-K2 69... B-K2 70... B-K2 71... B-K2 72... B-K2 73... B-K2 74... B-K2 75... B-K2 76... B-K2 77... B-K2 78... B-K2 79... B-K2 80... B-K2 81... B-K2 82... B-K2 83... B-K2 84... B-K2 85... B-K2 86... B-K2 87... B-K2 88... B-K2 89... B-K2 90... B-K2 91... B-K2 92... B-K2 93... B-K2 94... B-K2 95... B-K2 96... B-K2 97... 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Sultan Qaboos: determined to act as a buffer.

The young Sultan's crusade to keep communism out

Few ceremonial occasions can have been as symbolic of a recent military defeat over communism as yesterday's pageantry in the steaming heat of Dhofar on the south-easterly tip of the Arabian peninsula.

The event being celebrated was the National Day of the Sultanate of Oman, the seventh since Sultan Qaboos bin Said seized power from his repressive and eccentric father and the first centred on the southern province of Dhofar since the defeat of Marxist guerrillas operating from bases across the border in South Yemen.

Trained at Sandhurst, a former officer in the Camerounians and a lover of Clive and Sullivan, Sultan Qaboos as 37 is the ruler of the last Arab state to have maintained an active British military presence. Although it has been sharply cut back this year, with the RAF pull-out from Masirah and the imminent departure of Royal Engineers completing a road-building project, Oman's expanding army, navy and air force will continue to have British commanders, and Arabic-speaking members of the SAS will remain until the New Year, training the Firqas.

These are a unique and colourful force of Dhofari hill tribesmen, the bulk of whom have been tempted by hard cash and a generous amnesty to defect from the revolutionary Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman.

Three schools and no proper hospital

It was the final defeat of the PFLO in December, 1975, that gave Sultan Qaboos his present boost and considerably increased his standing among the country's more wealthy and powerful neighbours, particularly Saudi Arabia. It came at a time when he was struggling to overcome the feudal legacy of his parsimonious father whose policies had kept Oman in the Middle Ages, more cut off from the outside world than any other country with the exception of Tibet.

Until 1970 its estimated population of one million had only three schools, no proper hospital, no electrical power and only five kilometres of tarmac road while transistors, cigarette smoking and even sun-cream were officially banned. All that has been changed as the result of a modernisation programme which has been in-

Christopher Walker

When John Masfield wrote "Ships and the sea, there's nothing finer made", he expressed what has inspired shipbuilders the world over for generations. Yet with few exceptions, like Nelson's Victory of 1765 at Portsmouth, and "Old Ironsides", the US frigate Constitution, 1787 in Boston navy yard, it is only in recent years that the importance of preserving historic craft has received proper attention.

In this country a great advance was made when the Maritime Trust was formed; but world-wide, nothing like enough is being done. Enthusiasm is growing, but money is still much more readily available for historic monuments ashore than for those representing sea history. Too many of these have already been lost, and ships being generally less durable than buildings, their number is diminishing year by year.

Our own record is not blameless. In 1949, for example, the Admiralty towed to sea the magnificent two-decker line-of-battle ship HMS *Spithead*, built as the French *Duguay Trouin* in 1789, and scuttled her off Spithead for the lack of £500,000 that would have preserved her, fully restored, for posterity.

Had a beautiful cathedral been demolished to save a similar sum, there would have been an outcry. Nevertheless, there are many cathedrals, world in all the world there was only one two-decker line-of-battle ship. Regardless of this, she was ruthlessly murdered.

In 1964, the Philippine

government presented to the United States the last surviving American built deep water sailing ship, the *Kailani*, and this unique relic was accepted in Manila by President Johnson. Without money to retrieve her, she went to scrap merchants, an easy way to get rid of a ship, but one that has been built in their own country.

Gone for ever was the last hope that one day American shipbuilders might add to their heritage of seafaring merchant sailing ships with one that had actually been built in their own country.

These tragedies would not have happened had world opinion been organized to protest. A historic ship in danger, the need is for an ambulance to get him to hospital. Left in the street he is likely to die. I want to see an ambulance ser-

Frank Carr, former director of the National Maritime Museum, calls for an 'ambulance service' to rescue historic vessels

The mighty ships that died in shame



The end of the Implacable, built in 1789 and scuttled by the Admiralty in 1949.

vice for historic craft in peril, the focus of World Ship Trust to do for them what the World Life Fund is doing for living species.

No great sum would be needed initially; just enough to establish an office, with a secretary, and a fund for preservation schemes. Gipsy Moth IV also pays her way, and in August received her millennial visitor. On the other side of the world, receipts from the old square-rigger *Balclutha* cover the cost of San Francisco's Maritime Museum.

It is in the initial stages of ship preservation that a loan from the World Ship Trust would make all the difference between success and failure. When a restored ship is mak-

ing money, as so many do, the loan can be repaid to the central fund, where it will be available for other deserving projects.

Of course, to build such an organization will take time, and for most old craft there is not much time left. The first step must be to persuade the world's seafaring nations to found their own maritime trusts. The next should be to encourage these to form an international association, thus establishing a base on which to build the World Ship Trust that I envisage as the ultimate goal.

This I believe is what the Duke of Edinburgh might regard as the most promising line of action; and it will not be forgotten that it was under his leadership that our own Maritime Trust was established in 1970. His concern for the maritime heritage, not only of this country but of all seafar-

ing nations, is widely known and appreciated.

Such is the outline plan, and it is encouraging that action has already started overseas. At a Trafalgar Day luncheon aboard the Robert Fulton in New York in 1974, I was invited to launch the campaign to found a ship trust in the United States, following this with a promotion tour out to the west coast. A Bill for introduction into the Senate by Senator Edward Kennedy was delayed by drafting problems, but as an interim measure, responsibility for preserving historic ships in the United States has been entrusted to a newly formed Maritime Trust for Historic Preservation and 300,000 dollars from the proceeds of the Tall Ships rally, Operation Sail '76, has been devoted to this and for its maritime programme.

In Holland, where I was invited to address the Netherlands Anchorites, a maritime trust was established in November 1975. In Norway considerable interest has been shown by the press, but further action has yet to begin. Reaction in other European countries remains to be stimulated, and interest has still to be aroused among the more distant seafaring peoples of the world.

To do all this, however, is more than a one man job. The stage has been set, where a steering committee is needed to undertake the task of financial backing. Is it too much to hope that such sponsors can be found? The time for action is now and the need is urgent.

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A giant leap for mankind

This has not been much of a year for human beings: the usual catalogue of folly, distress, greed, violence, and madness, relieved by an occasional joke. But it has been a bumper year for fleas.

The flea, *Xenopsylla*, is a small, wingless insect. They have laterally flattened bodies with bristles and spines (setae), mouthparts adapted for piercing and sucking, and legs developed for leaping. Scientists tried to determine with the help of a friend and a simple mathematical formula how many times its own length a flea could jump. The answer is 130 times.

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As yet, Oman remains completely undemocratic, ruled by decree with no popular or advisory assembly. Ministers are hand-picked by the Sultan and no obligation is felt for them to abandon their business interests. The continuing but gradually slowing pace of improvement in the social and economic infrastructure has no sign of any internal opposition to the Sultan to be detected.

But since 1970 the number of schoolchildren has risen from a derisory 909 to over 70,000, and many self-educated Omanis have returned from abroad with excellent foreign qualifications.

The real test is going to come over the next 10 years, explained one Western diplomat, based in the walled capital of Muscat. "Everyone is waiting to see whether the Sultan has the political imagination necessary to cope with the expectations of a new generation which has had an education."

Christopher Walker

oned Darriek or Smart the better poet: "Sir, there is no setting the point of precedence between a flea and a flea. Johnson may have been sound on poetsasters. But he was wrong about fleas. There is considerable point in distinguishing between the 1,600 species of the order Siphonura."

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Sea is beseeched with a roused forehead. The cat flea is usually found where the flea is. One reason for our modern plague is the growing population of stray cats. It has been known for some time that, if it cannot find a cat, a flea will become a parasite of a dog or some other mammal, or of poultry. In the past it had been known to bite a human, because to do so made it vomit. It seems possible that cat fleas are starting to develop a means of controlling their nausea. Such a development might enable them to breed on a diet of human blood.

For the sake of humans, to be bitten by a cat flea is irritating and embarrassing (if we are easily embarrassed) rather than dangerous. This flea does not carry any serious disease, but is an intermediate host of the tapeworm. Its impervious pupal stage can wait a year before hatching.

The only foolproof method of getting rid of cat fleas completely is to get rid of cats. Most Britons would prefer to carry on scratching their lower legs than that. In any case, there are plenty of other species of the hungry little creature waiting to turn anthropophagous if we get rid of *Ctenocephalides*.

As Archy said to Mehitabel: insects have their own point of view about civilisation; a man thinks he amounts to a great deal but to a flea or a mosquito a human being is merely something good to eat.

Philip Howard

Why Princess Anne can never be plain Mrs

The birth of Princess Anne's baby, the Queen's first grandchild, is an event in which we can all take pleasure, wishing the new boy long life and happiness. At the risk of appearing churlish in this particular week, however, I now put forward criticism, not of the Princess but of the designation with which she has been saddled: The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips.

Princess Anne is not—she cannot be—Mrs Phillips. By virtue of her royal birth she is Princess Anne, and as the daughter of a duke she is Lady Anne if style and title are to be extended—that is to say extended downwards. Mrs, never. The same is true of the embowering Princess Alexandra, wrongly called Mrs Angus Ogilvy.

I have never understood why this abuse—this insecurity—should have been allowed by the Palace. Perhaps it is due to some misguided "egalitarian" notion in the minds of the Queen's advisers. I can think of no other explanation.

While titles exist (and I am not now arguing their merits), let us use them correctly. From time to time you have probably read letters in this newspaper, ascribed to Mrs Elizabeth Young, of 100, Baywater Road, W2. There is no such person at that address. The author is Lady Kennet, whose husband was Mr (or the Hon) Wayland Young, before he succeeded to the peerage. Nor is there a Mrs Barbara Castle in the present Parliament: as the wife of a peer she is Lady Castle.

Whatever Barbara Castle or Elizabeth Kennet may choose to call themselves, one might have expected the Palace to uphold the right usage. But no, the Palace has evidently succumbed, at least in this respect, to the silly, trendy nonsense of the day. It is to be hoped that Princess

Anne and Princess Alexandra will soon be relieved of these unwelcome and inappropriate designations.

Those members of the Labour Party's national executive committee—Mr Mikardo and the like—who would so readily cut down the armed forces may care to reflect, in the light of the *Eirene*'s article, on the social implications of what they are advocating. If the strike has achieved nothing else, it should at least remind them of the civil functions and responsibilities attaching to the three services. These are often forgotten by critics of the military establishment, with their glib calls for economy.

As they are demonstrating yet again, soldiers, sailors and airmen have duties beyond those of war and defence. Embodying innumerable skills and resources, they are vital to the maintenance of public security in more senses than one. Unless they were available, in adequate strength, there could be no guarantee of orderly administration in conditions of physical disruption. Without them, we would all be at risk.

With the advent of nuclear weapons and the threat of atomic attack there are many who seem to think that conventional forces have had their day and are no longer of much value. In terms of military or strategic considerations this is faulty and dangerous reasoning. It is similarly mistaken in the context of civil affairs and the wellbeing of the community, as we are seeing.

While Lord Thorneycroft's back is turned (he is recovering from an operation), discord and division have afflicted the Conservative Central Office. Hence the abrupt resignation of Mr William Clark MP for Croydon South and a deputy chairman of the party organization.

I gather that he was my best friend, and was greatly put out to see his name in the *New Statesman* and *Thorneycroft's* abuse.

Mr Clark was previously responsible for financial and budgetary control, a duty transferred to Lady Young, former vice-chairman, when she recently joined the ranks of the deputy chairman, as an accountant, and a stern apostle of thrift. Mr Clark was well suited to the role, especially when funds—down supply—were said depressingly low.

A further change in the Central Office is directed towards the improvement of what are nowadays called the party's "communications"—the information and publicity services, for which Mr Angus Maude, another of the deputy chairmen, has just assumed responsibility at Mrs Thatcher's request. *Thorneycroft* has been troubled about "communications" for some time, perhaps unduly so. Her trust in Mr Maule is to be welcomed—as a professional writer, and a former editor, he is admirably qualified for this exacting and sensitive commission.

My friend Mr Anthony Howard was greatly put out not to see his name in the *New Statesman* and *Thorneycroft's* abuse. He wrote about its disappearance with some indignation in the columns of the *New Statesman* of which he is editor. Sharing his preference, I myself was similarly disconcerted and felt very fed up until I discovered the "throw away" remark. This, I thought, was a marvellous innovation—cheap and doubly effective.

As to the Ever ready blade (for such it was), now wish that it had gone out of production long ago. Which just goes to show that we can become too set in our ways as we grow older.

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Was Drake's Plate 'planted' by students?

The "mural of doubt" cast upon Sir Francis Drake's Plate (The Times, August 8) has now, with full publication of the scientific evidence, become a full sized portion: it seems certain that the "Plate of Brass", accepted for 40 years as a genuine memento of Drake's landing in California in 1579, is a clever though unskilled modern forgery. What remains enshrouded in mystery, however, is the identity and motive of the forger.

The inscribed brass plate was reported as having been found near San Francisco Bay in 1936; when announcement of the discovery was made another man claimed to have found but discarded the plate three years earlier, a claim corroborated by his then employer. These coincidental circumstances urged acceptance of the plate's genuineness on a willing public, as did a detailed physical and metallurgical analysis by a noted scientist in New York, Colin G. Fink. It is Fink's results that have been challenged by a battery of newer analytical techniques, the conclusions of which sobering but unequivocal, have been published by the Bancroft Library at the University of California at Berkeley, where the plate has long been enshrined. The Plate of Brass Reexamined now joins Drake's Plate of Brass Authenticated on the bookshelf to complete the documentation of a fraud as puzzling as Piledown.

Fink had noted several odd features about the plate, including fine parallel striations that could be replicated with a file, but not ancient tools; although it was widely accepted as genuine, doubts had been expressed by other scholars because of inappropriate features in the text of the inscription, and it was to remove or substantiate these doubts that the library recently decided to submit the plate to detailed reanalysis.

This took the form of three enquiries: into the inscription, the metal of the plate, and its method of manufacture. It was suggested that the inscription which appears several times in the inscription did not enter the English alphabet until after Drake's time; this is, however, a matter for debate, and it is curious that all the J's in the inscription have been damaged by hammer blows, as though the maker of the letter intended ambiguity. Other letters, especially B, R, P, N, and M aroused the suspicions of experts at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, who queried the use of extra strokes in the letters and the lack of abbreviations in the inscription, as well as the "surprisingly modern" spelling. They expressed "serious doubts as to its having been inscribed in the sixteenth century". Other specialists found the crudeness of the lettering unconvincing, given that the Golden Hind would have had on board "a

skilled gunner well versed in brass work, capable of high quality engraving".

The content of the text distributed by Professor Barnes of the University of California, who thought the terminology in reference to Queen Elizabeth quite improper, suggesting that her title to Ireland and France would have been included as well as the "defender of the faith" she had inherited from her father, Henry VIII.

These "surface matters" of the inscription were of course only relevant if the brass itself proved to be old, and the composition of the metal was therefore analysed in parallel by the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory in California and the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art at Oxford University which has a long-standing reputation for exposing fakes, such as the Herculaneum figures (The Times, July 30, 1971). Samples drilled from the plate were analysed by X-ray fluorescence at Oxford by Mr Robert Hedges, and showed it to contain some 35 per cent zinc and 65.2 per cent of copper. Silver was present in less than 120 parts per million (ppm), in less than 500 ppm, and had in less than one twentieth of 1 per cent. Mr Hedges compared this with the composition of sixteenth century brass, of which the plate was made, and found it to be a clean straight cut made

had 28-34 per cent zinc, while only two of 21 specimens prior to 1600 had a zinc content exceeding 30 per cent, and none of the samples tested had a zinc content as high as that of Drake's plate, while the lead content was higher in almost every case. This was found to exist in the pre-1600 brasses in quantities of 10 times greater than the level in Drake's plate. Mr Hedges concluded that the evidence "cannot be used to support the contention that the brass is of the Elizabethan period", although he did not "think they can provide unequivocal proof of the authenticity or forgery of the plate".

The Berkeley analysis replicated these results, and found the composition to match that of a modern sheet brass called alloy 268, and to differ from that of sixteenth-century brass. These results were laid before a prominent historian of metallurgy, Professor Cyril Smith of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, whose initial reaction was to accept Fink's 1937 report as "in the main plausible". Last year Professor Smith examined the plate, after which he disagreed with Fink's conclusion "that the plate had been made by hammering rather than rolling" (a process only introduced in the late seventeenth century). Moreover the edge of the plate was not chisel-cut and filed, as would be expected of a sixteenth-century brass, but had "a clean straight cut made

in a guillotine shear, upset by hammering on the edge to remove the shear marks. Most of the evidence has been reported but not analysed. On the closely concurring results of the Oxford and Berkeley analyses, Professor Smith remarked that "both the low zinc content as well as the high lead content are consistent with a piece of modern common high brass".

He concluded "I approached the plate with a slight prejudice in favour of its authenticity, but I now incline to the belief that it is a product of the present century. All of the features that I have noted make me incline to the opinion that the plate is a modern forgery".

The results of gamma-ray absorption studies of the thickness of the plate and ultrasonic examination of the homogeneity of the metal grains both suggested that it was a piece of rolled, relatively modern, brass. Thus the tools of modern science contravened the conclusions reached 40 years ago, using the best techniques then available. Historians, archaeologists and physicists are united in an acceptance that "Drake's Plate of Brass" could not have been the plate which Chaplain Fletcher records Drake as having left nailed to a "faire groote poste" somewhere on the coast of New Albion, now California.

What remains totally unknown is who perpetrated the forgery, and why. The original discoverer, Beryl Shinn, did not try to make money out of it, but he was a claimant of William Caldera to have found the plate in 1933 to settle a rule out forgery by Shinn unless, unholy thought! Caldera found evidence that he was the forger. The late Samuel Eliot Morrison, who roundly attacked the plate as a fake in his monumental work *The European Discovery of America*, suggested that Professor Herbert Bolton at Berkeley, who had "for years been telling students to keep an eye out for Drake's plate", was the subject of a hoax by his pupils which they were then too embarrassed to confess when he publicly accepted its authenticity. Another scholar has suggested to me that the fake plate was left to weather, and perhaps be found near Drake's Bay in 1933, but was found and moved by Caldera. When it was found again jacked away in 1936 the hoaxers pulled the nerve to come forward. The parallels with Piledown are piquant: we may never know the truth.

Norman Hammond
Archaeological Correspondent
The Plate of Brass Reexamined. A Report issued by the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, 1977 \$5.00.

Britain's most famous marmalade. Thick, rich, chunkily chewable. Dark with the unmistakable aroma of Seville oranges. From Oxford it was carried around the world to the Antarctic, the Americas even Everest itself. And became a part of the great tradition of the British breakfast.

FRANK COOPER
"OXFORD"
Orange Peel
MARMALADE
454g 1lb

makes the marmalade that makes the British breakfast.



At best, perhaps, Mr Begin could announce some troop withdrawals from Egyptian territory as a gesture of goodwill and reciprocity. But the basic differences are still substantial, and must be the subject of long and detailed negotiation with other Arab countries and some form of Palestine representation.

Nevertheless, with all these reservations the visit is absolutely right and deserves to be so. For far too long everyone involved in the Middle East has been playing a game of hide-and-seek, and the time has come to build up and consolidated over the years, and long since out of date. Mr Sadat has said that 70 per cent of the trouble is psychological. This is not quite true. There are very real problems involved in accommodating the interests, and ensuring the security, of all concerned. But outdated attitudes have also played a large role too—the Arab hope that Israel could somehow be made to disappear; the Israeli hope that the Palestinian problem might also disappear; Israel's struggles with her own interpretation of history.

President Sadat cannot change all this overnight but he has brought imagination and movement into the situation at a time when attitudes are already beginning to change below the surface. It is to be hoped that the Israeli response will be equally flexible. His gamble deserves to succeed. If it fails the condemnation of history will be more likely to fall on his opponents than on him.

equipment that could not in practice be used. It would be wrong to forfeit a minor gain in efficiency if doing so brought a reasonable settlement nearer. The judgment is a technical one which it is not easy to criticise from outside. But it seems likely on the face of it that at least some of the gear in the stations could be useful. Smoke-resistant breathing masks, in particular, would have been immensely helpful in many of the outbreaks that the ships have had to tackle. It is claimed that even chivalry at some days to master, but the strike has already lasted five days and may last many more. Perhaps only fully trained firemen can make full use of a modern fire-engine, but it might still do useful service in the hands of people trained to use just as much of its equipment as they can manage without risk.

The fact that soldiers are already showing signs of exhaustion suggests that the Government do not use its week of training men as a strike to train enough men ever to strike to train "Green Goddesses" adequately manned over a period. That does not create confidence that every possible step is being taken to protect the public without spoiling the chances of a settlement. The firemen have no right whatever to deny the use of their machines to the community, and the Government should not hesitate to purchase quantities of any equipment as soon as it is clear that it would be useful.

Dairy refer to earlier drafts of which they had referred as the negotiations dragged on. I have related the scene in the War Cabinet offices on October 31, as described to me by Leo Amery himself.

I was not supplying a statistical survey of the views in the War Cabinet but I must not accept that Curzon was the only one who had "first hand knowledge of the Middle East".

As to my assertion that Balfour was not sure himself what his Declaration meant, Mr Tibawi tries to dispute it but goes on to confirm it nicely. What is "a focus of national life"? Incidentally, I have never said that the idea had been the early establishment of a Jewish state! It took 30 years to the day—and this was very good going.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
I. G. SMITH,
28 Lawn Road, NW3.
November 15.

Journalist in disguise

From Professor Sir Raymond Fifth, F.R.A. and others

Sir, May we refer to the report from Papua New Guinea in your issue of November 16 by a Mr David Bradbury, a journalist who is said to have gained access to the area by "posing as an anthropologist".

deception. Anthropologists depend absolutely on the trust in their motives by the people among whom they live and work, and this masquerade could undermine the confidence of those on whom the success of research depends.

The study by anthropologists of social and institutions is of constructive benefit to their hosts, and we trust that bona fide scholars, sponsored by university departments and other bodies, will not find their research prejudiced by an irresponsible action which we hope will be equally condemned by professional journalists.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND FIRTH,
EDMUND R. LEACH,
A. L. EPSTEIN,
A. C. MAYER.
The Cambridge Anthropological Institute of
Great Britain and Ireland,
56 Queen Anne Street, W1.
November 16.

requiring road journeys of two hours or more to cross them. They are not local, nor can they offer credible government. An assurance that their share of regional decision making will pass up to the assembly, and that the rest of their powers will go back either to the district or to the county, would be a relief. Exercising power in the old county areas would be more than welcome; for local government is not credible as local government over territories that are larger than that—and it is formidably expensive, if only in wasted staff and time.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GREEN,
Rhys y Harding,
Cystle Morris,
Near Haverfordwest,
Pembrokeshire,
November 17.

From Mr J. S. Pevsley
Sir, Your letter today (November 18) considers that, barring unforeseen accidents, the proposed legislation on devolution will now have a comparatively smooth run up to the statute book. It can also, however, be said that there should be given to submitting the devolution proposals to a referendum of the nation as a whole, and this follows very closely "the sentiments ex-

their personal views are their personal views. The suggestion that teachers in higher education should perhaps not have personal views or strong convictions is a dismal one indeed; who then would decide what students should learn? (1) There are a small number of academics (as members of other professions, including politics) who are fanatics; there are a smaller number who wish to spread their brand of fanaticism among their students; and a still smaller number who use their formal teaching position to do this. Some of these people are Marxists, in that they belong to small political organisations or are small political agitators or persons and adhere to a dogmatic and narrow kind of theoretical Marxism. It is probably fair to say that a small number of teachers, though this is only an impression; some may even decrease to a few students, though I have never seen across this country a small number of universities and other institutions, the whole is usually fantasy. But there are a very small number of people who are ineffective, people who are a nuisance, and in no wise a major threat. To regard them otherwise would be to open otherwise, a grave and dangerous misconception.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN WILSON,
School of European Studies,
University of East Angles,
University Plain,
Norwich.

with an air of authoritative detachment and professional knowledge which they do not always possess.

There is no doubt that hotel guides do influence visitors to this country, because criticism is always news, and it is disseminated around the world. It would be accepted more readily if it were obvious in the way it is expressed that it represents only an opinion and not a statement of fact: as to whether an hotel or a restaurant is the best in the world, or whether, and essentially, be a matter of opinion.

I am afraid I cannot accept Mr. Ronay's contention (November 7) that London hotel prices are "the highest in the western world". He seems to base his information upon the comparatively high prices of the Continent, but, in dealing directly and regularly with leading hotels in different parts of Europe, this is not my experience.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
HUGH WONTNER, Chairman,
The Savoy Hotel, Limited,
1 Savoy Hill, WC2
November 18.

ment assumes that such persons and organizations are spread evenly throughout the British Isles. This is certainly an unrealistic vision of the current state of British archaeology. The implementation of the new arrangements will guarantee the abandonment of large areas of Northern England and most of Scotland as regions of survey simply because there are few professional groups in these areas. This will be to the severe detriment of those few archaeologists working in these regions who rely on the basic updating of monument records for their activities.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN R. HUNTER,
Archaeological School of Studies, in
University of Bradford.
November 11.

I really cannot believe that the majority of shooting men, even those who have little regard for animal life, are so reckless of their own lives. It would be an intolerable burden for them to justify their possession of lethal weapons to the police. Mr Dobson should reflect that if his fraternity do not behave responsibly now and cooperate in a sensible measure of control, it may not be very long before the majority of men who (who do not and do not wish to shoot) demand that possession of any firearm for any purpose whatsoever be banned. And that really would spoil his enjoyment—which the present proposals will not.

Yours faithfully,
DANIEL DYKE,
12 Park View
Winchmore Hill W31

Sculptured elms
 From Mr. E. A. Young
 Sir, The diseased elms in our parks
 are al-ready sculptured. See Roy Camp-
 bell's poem *Autumn*
 I love to see, when leaves depart,
 The clear avornary arrive,
 Witness the paragon of art,
 That kills all forms of life and feeling
 Save what is pure and will survive.
 For "winter" read "Dutch elm
 disease", and let the sculptors try
 elsewhere to make anything so pure
 as the dead trees.
 I have the honour to be, Sir,
 Your obedient servant,
 B. A. YOUNG,
 28 Elm Park Gardens, SW10.

the Middle East, the State of Israel is
largely irrelevant. Unless the reference is
specifically to the Arab states of
the Middle East.

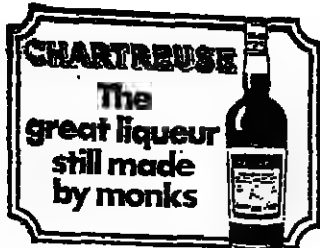
Yours faithfully,
SIDNEY L. SHIPTON,
General Secretary,
The Zionist Federation,
Rex House,
4/12 Regent Street, SW1.
November 11.

From Mr A. J. Newnham

Sir, We have received a number of
comments following the publication
of our advertisement on page 21 in
your November 8 edition. We
would like to state that the repre-
sentational drawing of the UK and
the Middle East in the advertise-
ment was in no way intended to be
cartographically accurate; and cer-
tainly we did not intend any offence
to countries shown or not shown.

We take this opportunity of
apologizing if we inadvertently, and
innocently, offended any of your
readers.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. NEWNHAM,
Nasco Insurance Brokers Ltd,
Knollys House,
11 Byward Street, EC3.
November 16.



Third quarter rise in GDP, but industrial output stays sluggish

By Melvyn Westlake

Economic activity in Britain appears to have begun to pick up in midsummer. According to provisional Government figures published yesterday, gross domestic product—which measures the nation's total output of goods and services—rose at an annual rate of almost 3 per cent in the third quarter of this year.

However, the rise, if it is confirmed, comes after a prolonged period of depressed output and does not even restore economic activity to the level prevailing at the turn of the year.

Indeed, unless the fourth quarter turns out to be better for business than is now expected, growth for 1977 will still fall short of the peak reached four years earlier, though somewhat higher than during the recession years of 1975 and 1976.

Over the first nine months of this year the gross domestic product has shown an average growth of less than 1 per cent compared with the average of 1976.

Both Government and private forecasts now expect a rather bigger rise in 1978. Most private forecasts suggest an expansion in the economy next year of between 2½ and 3½ per cent, while Treasury economists predict a growth rate of 3½ per cent between the second half of 1977 and the second half of 1978.

It is possible that the Treasury forecasts could prove to be rather conservative as they assume a rise in average earnings of 10 per cent.

As it now seems increasingly probable that average earnings will be a good deal higher than 10 per cent, output could rise quite sharply under the stimulus of higher consumer spending, at least until higher wages lead to higher prices.

More immediately, the problem for the Government is the continuing depressed state of industrial production, which accounts for almost half of the nation's output.

In the third quarter all of the rise in economic activity resulted from the agricultural and distributive sectors.

Industrial production has, for

months, shown little real growth and still stands below levels reached last winter. On the other hand, there are strong indications that Britain has enjoyed a good harvest this summer.

It could even prove to be as favourable as in 1975, although probably not as good as the record crop of 1974.

According to Government statisticians, the increase in output of the agricultural sector accounted for about a third of the rise in gross domestic product in the third quarter. Retailing and wholesaling accounted for the rest of the growth in the July-September period.

A working committee has been set up by the Cabinet to consider proposals for raising imports. Suggestions include a relaxation of import quotas and a scheme to finance accelerated imports.

But none of the measures taken earlier this year has had a noticeable effect, and it remains doubtful whether the Government will be able to do anything effective now.

The yen's 30 per cent effective appreciation this year is a major cause of concern for Japanese businessmen.

At the same time it is being hammered home to them that Japan's trading partners are increasingly anxious to see a change in trading policies.

Talks are taking place this weekend between American and Japanese trade officials, and Tokyo's huge surplus is bound to be raised at the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development talks in Paris next week.

Deputy Secretary of State published a gloomy forecast of Japanese growth, which believes will end below 5½ per cent this year, rather than the 6½ per cent target.

The dollar was generally weaker yesterday, falling to DM2.405 and £2.04. Swiss francs were also weaker, especially from New York, and closed at \$3.25, 55 points up on the day. The effective rate index rose by 0.1 to 63.8.

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Yen at fresh peak despite Tokyo move to peg rate

By Caroline Atkinson

Japan's currency strengthened to an all-time high at the close of 243.45 to the dollar yesterday, despite heavy official intervention in the Tokyo foreign exchange market. In London the rate closed 13 yen higher than on Thursday at 244.1.

Emergency inward exchange controls announced in Tokyo on Thursday have not changed the market's view that the yen will appreciate still further this year.

Although the reserve requirements which came into force next week will make it more expensive for foreigners to hold yen, this is outweighed by the prospect of a capital appreciation on yen balances.

Dealers are expecting new measures by the Japanese Government to cut its trade and current account surplus. In October the trade surplus widened to just below its all-time high.

A working committee has been set up by the Cabinet to consider proposals for raising imports. Suggestions include a relaxation of import quotas and a scheme to finance accelerated imports.

But none of the measures taken earlier this year has had a noticeable effect, and it remains doubtful whether the Government will be able to do anything effective now.

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Companies Act charges over SUITS balance sheet and share dealings

Sir Hugh Fraser and others accused

Sir Hugh Fraser and five other businessmen were charged yesterday under the Companies Act. It was alleged at Glasgow Sheriff Court that as directors of Scottish and Universal Investments they failed to give a true and fair view of the affairs of the company.

Accused are: Sir Hugh, deputy chairman of SUITS, and Mr James Gosman, an executive director, both of Park Gardens, Glasgow, the company registered office; Mr Nicholas John Redmayne of Walscot Lodge, Walscot, Lutterworth, Leicestershire, a non-executive director; Mr William Forgie, Sutherland Avenue, Glasgow; Mr Edward Gamble, Laidridge, Turnberry, Ayrshire; and Mr Angus Grossart, Howe Street, Edinburgh.

All are charged that on September 25, 1975, at the twenty-seventh annual meeting of SUITS in Glasgow, they failed to give a true and fair view of the affairs of the company.

It is alleged the balance sheet contained a gross understatement of £1,433,432 towards the year ending March 1976 which did not give a true and fair view of the affairs of the company.

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Sir Hugh Fraser: also charged over share transactions.

The charge claims that, in fact, the accused knew the sum at bankers and on hand did not exceed £5,500,100.

It is alleged they knew the difference of £4,233,457 was an unsecured loan to Amalgamated Caledonian.

This was contrary to section 149(6) of the Companies Act, 1948.

Sir Hugh, Messrs Forgie, Grossart, and Redmayne are charged separately under the Companies Act 1967 with offences involving shares. It is alleged that between November 6, 1974, and March 16 this year

they sold shares without telling SUITS about his transactions within 14 days—as required by the Companies Act. On one day, March 18, 1975, the charge alleges that he bought and sold three million shares.

Mr Forgie is accused of failing to tell the company about 1,450 shares he bought in SUITS on two dates in 1975.

Mr Grossart is alleged not to have told SUITS about 75,000 shares he sold in 1975.

Mr Redmayne faces a charge of not telling the company that he bought 52,500 shares and sold 42,500 in 1974 and 1975.

None of the six was present at the Sheriff Court. All were represented by solicitors.

All except Mr Forgie pleaded not guilty to all charges. The solicitor lodged a plea to the competency of the first charge and a not guilty plea to the second charge faced by his client.

Debate on the competency will be held on January 9 and the trial of all the accused, expected to last a week, will begin on May 15.

The minimum penalty on the charge faced by all six is six months' imprisonment or a fine of £200.

Penalties on the other offences are three months' imprisonment or £200 fine.

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Steel unions concede ground on manpower cuts, but resist closures

Variable rate council bond likely

By Paul Routledge
Labour Correspondent

Steel union leaders yesterday conceded to go some way towards meeting the manpower economy measures sought by the British Steel Corporation, but rejected proposals for halting new investment and shutting down large numbers of plants.

The executive of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation voted to open talks with the BSC on a national compensation scheme to give workers who accept voluntary redundancy some generous severance payments than state provisions allow.

However, they reaffirmed opposition to the corporation's plan to shift orders from high cost to low cost works, and insisted that the industry's long-term requirement and modern

ization programme should continue to be supported by the Government's attitude. In the past, loss-making plants had their future safeguarded by Cabinet decisions, because most of the plants were in politically sensitive areas such as West Scotland, north-east England and South Wales where unemployment is high and there are large numbers of Labour MPs.

The investment programme agreed before the current worldwide ordering recession in steel must also stand, in the union's view. In particular, that providing working conditions to be built on schedule at Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent and Humberston, Ayrshire. As for possible closures, the union is insisting that BSC cannot have "carte blanche" to shut down unprofitable capacity.

The ISITC is also seeking a meeting with Mr Varley, the Secretary of State, to assess the Government's attitude. In the past, loss-making plants had their future safeguarded by Cabinet decisions, because most of the plants were in politically sensitive areas such as West Scotland, north-east England and South Wales where unemployment is high and there are large numbers of Labour MPs.

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PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Grouse

Supplementary benefits are designed for people in need—for those who cannot make ends meet. Their entitlement is established by calculations which are based precisely on outgoings on the one hand and resources on the other.

Resources include income from various sources—earnings, state benefits, private pensions, maintenance payments, disbursement pensions, and other income—of which certain amounts are disregarded.

However, the Government unfortunately employs a different yardstick for the various categories of income when determining how much from each source can be disregarded.

Mr A. J. Boyd, of Redditch, Worcestershire, writes: "What surprises me is that the (Supplementary Benefits) Commission never seems to have made any criticism of one glaring anomaly in the Social Security Benefits Act of 1975. That Act increased the amount that could be disregarded from certain types of income to £4, when calculating how much supplementary benefit was payable.

However, so far as superannuation was concerned the Minister refused to increase the disregarded amount of £1 which had been in force since 1966, on the premise that it should be treated like retirement pensions as being provided specifically for a person's maintenance.

The anomaly is that those persons not in a compulsory superannuation scheme can make provision through, for example, an assurance company and, whatever weekly income they receive from the company on retirement, the Commission will disregard £4 when calculating benefit payable.

What it amounts to is that anyone who has contributed to a pension scheme, a form of involuntary saving for retirement, is penalized in comparison with the person who voluntarily saves for his retirement in order to buy an immediate annuity—of which £4 a week and not £1 will be disregarded.

Pensioners could be helped significantly if their occupational pensions—and some of those which people started drawing a few years ago but were very limited in their benefits—could be put on the same £4 footing.

Insurance

Brokers begin to face up to the reality of the registration Act

Traditionally, life assurance companies have been ready enough to pay commission for the introduction of business. The argument on the life side is that selling is all important; the more people selling, the higher should be the sales figures.

In broad terms, the intermediaries break down into life assurance brokers with virtually all life offices from which to choose; agents such as accountants, solicitors and others who deal with a very limited number of companies; and the companies' own sales forces.

Obviously, a company's own sales force sells only that company's products, and makes no bones about it. Many of these salesmen are self-employed, technically, but from a prospects point of view, are to all intents and purposes employed by the company.

Once the registration of brokers, as stipulated by the Insurance (Registration) Act, gets under way, there will be another category: those calling themselves brokers who fail to achieve registration and who will thus no longer be brokers.

For many life brokers, giving expert and unbiased service to clients, life has not been altogether easy. Understandably, some feel that they should receive a higher rate of commission than that paid to other agents, especially those agents who merely introduce a client to a company and let the company undertake the selling of the policy—thus incurring additional costs.

While that will be, no doubt, one of the aims of the single broking body—the British Insurance Brokers' Association—once it has got into its stride, the fact that all brokers will be under one umbrella may make that difficult to achieve.

For instance, a life office might genuinely see grounds for paying a higher rate of commission to its leading life insurance brokers, or those which produce a large volume of business at comparatively low cost to the office.

But there would be much reluctance to pay a higher rate of commission to all members of BIBA since the amount of life business handled by some may be very limited. And some of the brokers need to rely quite heavily on the companies for technical back-up—which costs money.

It might be thought that brokers would dislike companies operating their own sales forces. Admittedly, some com-

"We've no choice about selling"—Mrs Eileen Donald, club secretary (third from left), Mrs June Josephs, chairman (centre) and Mrs Muriel Jones, treasurer (second from right) explain to members of the Finance for Fun Investment Club that they must sell shares if they want to make use of their opportunity to buy shares in Imperial Metal Industries.



It's fun when you club together...

If you went to the Hurlingham Club on the second Thursday of the month you would not have been surprised to meet a couple of dozen of middle-aged, affluent ladies drinking coffee but you might have been surprised by their conversation.

Certainly it was about money, shares and shopping—but not at Harrods. Try the Stock Exchange and you would not be far wrong.

What, in fact, you would have stumbled across was the monthly meeting of the Finance for Fun Investment Club.

Investment clubs properly have their origins in the late Fifties and early Sixties when the cult of equity was at its height. Today there is not the same blind faith in equity investment and the National Association of Investment Clubs is but a shadow of the movement it once was.

But throughout the country, investment clubs where people of like mind meet regularly to discuss their common investments bought from a common pool, still survive.

Such is the Finance for Fun Investment Club, which was formed in March, 1962, by a group of 30 or so women, mostly all neighbours in an elegant part of Putney along the Thames. Only two founder members still belong to the club, but when I met the chairman, Mrs June Josephs and secretary, Mrs Eileen Donald, I quickly realised that the original aims remain—to learn about the Stock Exchange, to teach members to manage their own affairs and to keep people together.

Their sober definition does not quite capture the flavour of the club—but its title does. The ladies of Hurlingham really enjoy their monthly meetings. It is fun to argue the merits, or otherwise, of a share that someone is recommending.

Making a successful decision, which does not always happen—buying at the wrong time, that's where you go wrong sometimes, Mrs Donald admitted—is clearly what matters most to the 36 members. Making money is a welcome bonus.

When the club was launched 15 years ago each member contributed £2 a month. Now there is an annual subscription of £5.30 per unit, which gives them just over £500 of new money a year to play with, plus any proceeds that may come from the sale of shares or receipt of dividends.

IML application. The question was: what to sell? The committee, which meets a week before the full club, had done the preliminary work and presented members with two options. (The committee recommends, but the club must say "yes" or "no".)

Either they could sell the Cavenham Preference and Imperial Convertible Loan or the 359 shares in RTZ.

"We've no choice about selling," the treasurer explained, "but members might wish to suggest other shares which could be sold instead."

The sale of the club's 175 De Beers shares was floated as a possibility. The meeting took place within days of De Beers having announced an increase of 17 per cent in rough diamonds prices.

The discussion on RTZ was more animated. One member said that as an investor she would rather sell RTZ. Another pointed out that the price of copper was "unpredictable."

Still interesting despite the overnight increase in price, in response to a question from the secretary—"Does anyone want to profit-take?"—Sun Alliance was a short-lived candidate.

So the main contenders remained Cavenham Preference and Imperial Convertible Loan or the 359 shares in RTZ.

However, she did agree, when questioned, that it would cost more to sell two stocks than one.

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FINANCE FOR FUN INVESTMENT CLUB PORTFOLIO

Company	No. of shares	Share price	Total cost	Share price	Holding value
10-11-77					
NatWest Bank	240	155	37,200	268	64,320
Leeds & Godwin	800	94	75,200	100	80,000
ICI	281	210	59,010	398	111,858
RTZ	355	222	78,810	192	68,160
Shell Transport	200	473	94,600	570	114,000
Chubb & Sons	667	92	61,464	127	84,714
De Beers	175	215	37,625	262	45,850
Acrow "A"	1200	62	74,400	90	108,000
Grand Met. H.	1085	70	75,950	102	110,670
Sun Alliance	200	443	88,600	619	123,800
Imp. Grp. 8% conv. loan	1700	69	117,300	76	129,200
General Elec.	780	93	72,540	273	212,920
Wimpey & Co.	1200	77	92,400	80	96,000
British Gas 30% 1980/5	12200	84	1,024,800	482	1,097,760
Treasury 8 1/2 1980/2	1800	85	153,000	99	178,200
G.E.C. Capital notes	1200	49	58,800	100	120,000
Reckitt & Coleman	200	442	88,400	440	88,000
Cavenham 10% Pref.	350	83	29,050	95	33,250
Allied Colloids	600	90	54,000	89	53,400
Nurdin & Peacock	600	95	57,000	119	71,400
St. Piran	800	84	67,200	81	64,800
Bank accounts					385.80
F.T. ord. index					505.5
Total value of portfolio					146,922
Individual unit					125
No. of units					116,365.57

table" and in a secret ballot, as opposed to a show of hands, members voted by 20 to 5 to sell RTZ.

The main business of the day concluded, the members moved on to other business, which included a regular "ask-a-member-different-aspects-of-investment."

The previous month the meaning of "hot money" was explained. Mrs Sheila Collett had researched "asset-stripping" or a "beneficial influence?" she asked.

Then came business of a more technical nature. Should the club expand or not, by lifting the limits on the number of units a member may hold.

"Why not?" asked one member. "We're not afraid of a takeover bid."

It was pointed out by another member that as there was no voting power attached to the units, it did not matter how many units a member held.

A more serious objection raised by another member was the risk the club might run if too many people wanted to sell a lot of units at the same time. On the other hand, members did agree with Mrs Josephs' comment that "in a stagnant market people will want to sell and that will give us something to do."

So a useful compromise was reached and the new unit limit per member was raised from four to six by a majority of 21 to four.

The final investment business was the monthly bet on the index. Everyone was very pleased that Mrs Jones, the treasurer, had won with a very close prediction that in a month's time the market would have fallen from 504 (on the date of the October meeting) to 483.7 by November 10. In the event, the FT ordinary share index that day was 483.1.

After Mrs Jones had received her £1 prize money, the club got down to planning next month's Christmas lunch. I shall be going back there next February to see how well their portfolio is doing.

Margaret Stone

How I struggled manfully to understand tax

There are many advantages in being self-employed. Not least is the fact that one is spared the worry about one's National Insurance contributions. The VAT brigade is likewise also spared the worry about the VAT.

Freelance work, like warfare, tends to consist of alternating periods of frenzied activity and frenzied inactivity, so that the two things that tend to wake one up screaming in the middle of the night are, in contrast, how am I going to get it all done or where is the next meal coming from?

The freelance consultant, particularly in his active spells, is therefore notoriously jealous of his time and the idea of frittering away whole vital and valuable days on some essentially unproductive activity is bitterly resisted. Thus all the maddening administrative things tend inevitably to be pushed farther and farther into the depths of the pending tray and correspondents of this category are jolly lucky if they ever get a reply at all.

It is thus that people from, for example, the Department of Health and Social Security who worry about one's National Insurance contributions tend to have to worry for a fairly long time. The VAT brigade is likewise also spared the worry about the VAT.

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phenomenon is experienced to the full. I once took an examination for the Association of the Institute of Taxation. It is the only exam I have ever failed.

At this point I must introduce you to Mr Roberts. Some people have an ill-conceived idea about Mr Roberts' taxpayers of Texas. So, unless, they think they are grasping, and even sadistic, rolling about with helpless mirth as they squabble us all until the pipes squeak.

For all I know such fiends can indeed be found within the Inland Revenue service, but I have not come across them. In my experience they are a body of men unfailingly courteous, patient and understanding to the point of sainthood and Mr Roberts is *primus inter pares* when it comes to that.

But there are some people in business for whom, however hard one tries, everything always goes wrong. Mr Roberts and I have this kind of relationship.

In order to sort out the byzantine complexities of my affairs it is necessary for Mr Roberts and me to meet at

regular intervals. This we have in the past singularly failed to do.

I was ill on one occasion and he was ill on another. On the third occasion the file had been mislaid. On the fourth I had not taken photocopies of certain documents before sending them on to him. On the fifth he had been temporarily transferred to another office and on the sixth my car had broken down. On the seventh his secretary ran and to say that that very morning he had been stung by a highly allergenic bee.

My papers have been passed to another office without a word of farewell and I fear that I shall not be as lucky in my new relationship. In fact, I am absolutely positive that the new man will be about 18 stone, with closely cropped iron grey hair and tiny black piggy eyes.

He is not going to put up with any stupidity or crass inability to get down to the matter in hand. An era has passed and I fear that nothing will ever be the same again.

Francis Kinsman

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Margaret Drummond

Investment trust valuations

VALUATION MONTHLY	Company	Units of valuation	Annual dividend	Net asset value	Investment
1977					
1978					
1979					
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73.5	Electra	31.10.77	4.3	136.4	140.8	7.5
1	Globe	31.10.77	4.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
2	City of London	31.10.77	55.50	7	7	7
3	City of London	31.10.77	56.25	26	26	26
36.7	Temple Bar	31.10.77	6.5	342.2	246.7	6.0
4	City of London	31.10.77	25.15	120.00	140.00	23.40
5	City of London	31.10.77	55.00	110.10	110.10	22.60
6	F & C Group	31.10.77	2.45	131.5	135.7	11.0
131.5	Alliance	31.10.77	3.3	140.1	154.4	11.8
20.5	City of London	31.10.77	65.00	110.00	110.00	10.00
6.0	Foreign & European	31.10.77	2.8	200.0	210.0	22.0
150.8	Foreign & European	31.10.77	2.9	205.0	212.0	22.0
28.1	General Investors	31.10.77	3.4	140.5	145.0	8.8
	James Finlay Investment	31.10.77	1.3458	36.8	36.5	—
1.6	Promissory Notes	31.10.77	1.2	102.1	102.1	3.9
	Garmire Investment	31.10.77	0.34	20.7	20.7	3.9
8.7	Allfunds	31.10.77	7.2	102.1	102.1	3.9
24.3	Capital 50p	31.10.77	0.34	20.7	20.7	3.9
24.3	Andros-Scotish	31.10.77	1.1	97.6	60.1	3.5
25.8	English & Scottish	31.10.77	2.2	92.8	96.3	4.1
5.8	Group Investors	31.10.77	0.5	84.5	89.1	10.3
10.2	London & Lanc	31.10.77	2.1	93.3	96.8	8.5
10.1	London & Lanc	31.10.77	1.3	120.5	123.9	10.0
12.1	London & Lanc	31.10.77	1.375	53.4	57.4	4.3
11.9	London & Lanc	31.10.77	1.75	59.2	58.2	1.7
6.5	NY & Garmire	31.10.77	0.3	34.5	34.5	1.6
	Garmire Investment	31.10.77	0.34	20.7	20.7	3.9
71.2	Scotish	31.10.77	3.45	189.3	192.8	17.8
17.4	Glasgow Securities	31.10.77	2.05	131.7	136.7	12.9
80.9	James Gurney	31.10.77	7.5	366.7	383.9	50.1
36.7	Debenham Corp.	31.10.77	2.75	114.7	116.6	5.7
11.3	Glasgow Securities	31.10.77	1.7	144.6	145.6	15.8
217.9	Glasgow Securities	31.10.77	1.9	84.1	84.1	8.2
59.1	Glasgow Securities	31.10.77	2.1	120.5	123.9	10.0
158.7	Glasgow Securities	31.10.77	1.3	120.5	123.9	10.0
	Glasgow Securities	31.10.77	0.25	122.6	127.2	11.4
15.8	G. T. Management	31.10.77	0.975	75.4	75.4	3.8
6.4	Berry	31.10.77	0.25	170.20	170.20	13.20
6.4	Northern Sac	31.10.77	0.0	147.1	151.0	10.8
13.7	G. T. Japan	31.10.77	1.0	144.6	144.6	9.6
	Garmire Group	31.10.77	0.25	170.20	170.20	13.20
23.6	Stapleford	31.10.77	5.25	245.5	254.7	10.5
46.4	Stapleford	31.10.77	3.9	87.2	90.5	1.1
46.4	Hatnopoulos	31.10.77	3.25	124.1	134.1	6.4
46.4	Roadsmond	31.10.77	—	127.3	127.3	6.4
112.4	Henderson Administration	31.10.77	1.8	112.3	117.8	9.5

Active shipping sector

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

هكذا من الاصل

CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

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Please send me the goods I have ordered below. I enclose £9.95 and understand I may return goods within 7 days of receipt for a full and complete refund if I am not satisfied.

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Weekend

SHOP AROUND

Sheila Black

Three more catalogues for mail order shopping although some of the toys in one or two of them are also in shops and stores. Beaver Toys are more or less handmade, certainly made by craftsmen and their refund-if-not-satisfied service always works. However, the best thing about them is the understanding of the children and the careful combination of components for toys that will really make infants busy from babyhood to about seven or eight years old. Busybaby is an ingenious rattle, mirror and button-pressing concoction that looks as if it owes much to the Hears Robinson but is really first class teaching for babies of six months and upwards. A little rocking horse is £2.94 and a delightful theatre is £3.68. Magnetic slates that take shapes, a toybench that is a real workmate for under-sixes, soft building blocks, and a strong lined cloth to sweep the lot up in are all very good value. Beaver Toys caters for potential engineers, builders and craftsmen of various kinds as well as offering some garden games like very cheap croquet at £7.18 or badminton at £15.98. Beaver Toys is at Marl-

borough, Wiltshire. Catalogue 15p. John Adams sells only sturdy toys, the first loom chosen and praised by our panel of children last week. A Far Macmillan cookbook with miniature rolling pin, and things like bubble-makers, string games and a book on shadows-on-the-wall pictures to make with their own bare hands. A pack of marbles, necklace sets, tiny dolls and rag dolls are all appealing. His sturdy roadside garage has underground car park and is great fun. I remember a seven-year-old grandson praising it because "you could climb on it and stand there" and the same garage has survived seven years of him and his younger brother doing just that. John Adams' Toys markets quite a number of quality toys from other manufacturers to span most ages and tastes, all from British firms and mostly approved by the Design Council. The address for catalogues is in Crazies Hill, Wargrave, Berkshire (tel: Wargrave 3480). A really good stock of John Adams' fine range is at Peter Knight shops in Esher, Surrey, and Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire. They will mail as well as

serve personal shoppers—tel: Esher 64122 or Beaconsfield 556114. Offspring concentrates on teaching toys, one of the best of which is a bag of wooden bricks in different shapes but all to scale. Make columns, castles and churches, and all for £8.50, which may sound a lot, but they will last for ever and the sturdy kitbag is useful either to hold the bricks or take them to school with books and things. Reading and numbers games, junior Scrabble, young jigsaws, recipes, fruit or savoury, aprons and non-spill nappies are among a host of "things in a packed glossy catalogue you will want to keep all year round for reference whenever you need toys and sensible construction kits. The Atoplast modelling clay is very clean to use and 75p of the stuff will keep a young child happy for a long time. A decent recorder at £1.89 is good, an original stacking hamster cage is expensive but lasting and boxed games run to a large selection. Catalogue from Offspring, E. J. Arnold and Son, Butterley Street, Leeds LS10 3TS.

Last year my guinea-pig children and I put skateboards as our toys of the year and were actually able to find some at around £7. Now they seem to be £15 and upwards but there are some exceptions. Phillips, at the corner of Tottenham Court Road and Hurland Street, had some at £9.50 early this week but I have not been able to go in to try them out as I was late for an appointment. I would say at this point that the costlier skateboards are probably better boards and am not knocking £15 but was delighted to hear that from the end of this month, Woolworth will be selling good skateboards from £10.99. This is great value. In larger stores and Woolco branches.

Again, I have not been able to get them tried out but have come to trust so much of Woolworth's merchandise recently that I feel confident about recommending them. They have diecast aluminium trucks, rubber suspension and brilliant red tough composition wheels with double ball bearings for smooth speed plus a good width to ensure stability. It has the kick-tail back end which, I am assured, makes it infinitely manoeuvrable and makes skating on the flat or very gentle slopes possible—the "old-fashioned" variety need slopes and do not turn well, as I am informed by my teenage grandchildren, who have become highly proficient. Skateboarding is a 32-year-old sport, started in the sea-surfing areas of California and designed and made by youthful Americans who resented having to walk when they came ashore so that the original name was "Side-walk Surfers". In those days, lengths of wood or driftwood were attached to roller skates. Now with the kicktail, skateboards slip through 180 and 360 degrees. And all for £10.99.

Many a skate park, rightly, refuses admittance unless skaters wear protective helmets and pads and quite right too—although even that adds to the cost of kitting out initially. The excellent offer of *The Sunday Times* early this year was a sell-out but Woolworth are doing the protectors at roughly the same price now. Generously padded knee and elbow protectors are in a moulded exterior of strong white plastic and all the pads are elasticated for extra security. The helmet is bright yellow plastic, lined with protective foam and almost a steal for £3.99, which compensates for the pads at £4.99 for elbows and £5.49 for knees, costly but better than damaged limbs. Most skateboards wear track shoes but special skateboard footwear is making its appearance in a number of shops, again at rather higher prices than at Woolworth, where the sturdy canvas boots, especially designed to combine freedom and support are £3.49 for sizes 13 to 5 or £3.99 for sizes 6 to 10 in yellow, black or blue canvas for the smaller sizes but in black or blue only for the larger and let's hope that is not

an omen. I am going for a black pair myself—ask for Skateboard shoes and for Lotus Kicktail skateboards (23 inches long). Please encourage a slow start with young skaters. At the beginning it is better to scoot on a flat surface than to start downhill racing. Place the feet diagonally across the board, bend the knees, put the weight on the front foot and scoot along, before getting both feet off the ground on to the board. Learn to turn, then find your hill. Skateboards, components for assembling your own (but only if your experience is such that it is safe), books and magazines on the sport are plentiful at Alpine Sports, 5/12 Holborn, London, EC1. They are opposite the large, red Prudential Insurance building and they do lists for mailing. Personal shopping here and two other London shops plus one in Brighton, Hamleys Sport and Leisure Centre in Wimpole Street, where it joins Welbeck Street, London, W1, has a skateboard area staffed by people who know how to do it, and there are some kits at the toyshop in Regent Street too.

By the way, when you go to Woolworth for your skateboards, don't buy toys too. They have most leading brands including our children's favourites like the potter's wheel, chemistry sets, pin pictures, cross stitch and cotton crafts kits, all at good prices. One of my pet games of last year, the MB Newsweek for pretend journalists who actually do get their papers out, is wonderful value at £3.98 and my family of editors did a pretty good job with their front pages, story cards, telex machine and tape. The slightest sad element is that the red, yellow, blue and green plastic reporters are described as pawns... but maybe that is not far wrong. The MB toys are a good range, including a telephone that really rings and takes discs in the Playskool range; the still-loved ship in a bottle kit, a very original turner set for one or two players and others. Find many at Woolworth and leading shops and stores (at Debenhams and Selfridges, for example) or about £100 at the toyshop at Milton Bradley, Century House, 61/63 Uxbridge Road, Ealing, London W5 5SA.



The Maclaren Lie-back Buggy has had its fair share of publicity—fair because it deserved all it got. I waited until it had been well and truly tried out to pass on this personal impression. My young lady went to the factory and was impressed by how happy everyone was, which leads not only to good productivity (and reasonable value) but to quality workmanship. She admired the rigid testing systems and the new double wheels they have invented for infant safety and comfort and she liked the fact that toddlers need no longer fall asleep with their heads lolling loosely on an unsupporting shoulder. She did her research, too, by asking some 30 mothers their views and found the buggy in favour with them all. She even walked her own niece all round Norwich on the cobbled streets and busy pavements and was delighted with the steadiness of the buggy, saying the resting child as her own best friend. She adds that she hopes to be a mum herself in a year or nearly so and intends to buy one at the right time. She wound up by saying she actually agreed with all the claims made for it by Owen Maclaren, a sprightly 71-year-

old who pioneered the lightweight folding pushchair some 10 years old. The lie-back buggy is for longer expeditions, on a sturdy frame that takes not only the seating-reclining material but also has a pocket for the hood-end-apron complete with transparent panel to give the infant its own wind-screen in the rain. It has balloon foam tyres, as soft as pneumatic ones but needing no attention. The reclining seat has removable stiffeners, double locking devices and easily operated catches that are nevertheless childproof, and side panels that act as windshields, all in the colourful candy stripes that Maclaren addicts already know and love. The price, including V.A.T., is £26.50 (hood-apron an optional extra at £1.50). You consider that a child could be taken straight from carrycot stage to this lie-back, that is not bad. Obviously you need a pram if you have no other transport but your own feet. But you can buy the pram buggy, a folding transporter that weighs only 14lb. Believe it or not, the lie-back buggy weighs a mere 7lb. The original baby buggy was developed for the Maclaren grandchild and is still a marvellous lightweight folding pushchair; it spawned the twin and triplet buggies, the pram buggy that converts to the baby buggy when needed, and the lie-back. A great little range with wide distribution, queries to Andrews Maclaren, Stratton Works, Long Buckby, Northampton, NN6 7PF (Long Buckby 842662). Jackie's final words are the bigger buggies are ideal for handicapped or disabled people up to as much as 18 or 20 years old, a lot better than a bulky wheelchair since they all fold so easily and compactly. They are often on prescription, to physically or mentally handicapped youngsters as well as being available privately. You will find the manufacturers more than helpful.



Spencer—but I do not personally find them more than that since both miss that touch of flair which even children's clothes ought to have. Children seem to want to live in track shoes or other casual shoes and the staidier the better, especially when they are short boots. If they must wear them it is a good idea to buy some of the costlier ones with the very thick, supporting soles and the excellent range of Dynamite, with the word written on the side in blue and red letters, is a lace-up with good support just below the ankles, along the side of the shoe and the sole. £4.49 in the Superkids range on sale at most shops where Clark's famous shoes are sold. Tough Guy is a simpler but smart design, in various blues with white or brown and beige trim, sold in a sneaker. Sturdy and rugged at £5.49. Or £5.99 according to sizes up to "adult" 51 or £3.49 in the half-pint sizes for the fives and under. Fast Track is a real track shoe in blue or red with suede or grey suede while Rough Neck looks rather like the co-respondent's shoes of the thirties. Hi Socker has deep soles (£4.99). The outright winner, according to the children who tested for us, and covered by many young lads in the office, is the Big Shot Hi, covered with camouflage in the familiar greens and yellows. Heavy tread rubber soles, cotton linings, padded top and thickly rolled edges, it is comfortable and durable at £5.99 up to size 11, £5.49 up to 51 (no half-pint sizes for this one). The tocap is a smooth finish. You can buy this shoe in denim blue but it is the camouflage that everyone admired here. All these and more are in half sizes which is rare for this type of footwear. The high, padded backs, the long, cushioned tongues, reinforced eyelets, extra strong laces and stitching, safe non-slip sole and steel-shanked, cushioned arch support make these colourful canvas shoes as good for their growing feet as shoe-type footwear. You should find them at stockists of Clark's shoes, as I said, but you could find out your local from Jill Grimble, Superkids, Box 126, 40 High Street, Street, Somerset BA16 0YA. (Tel: Street 43131). If you send a stamped, self-addressed envelope measuring 12in by 8in you can have a colourful catalogue of them.



Children may not welcome clothes for Christmas as long as they are standard gear like school clothes or everyday wear. But special outfits, like tracksuits, extra-special jeans, a long dress or an extra-velvety bolero or jacket—this is the kind of thing they love to get once they reach nine or 10 years old. For ordinary day clothes, it is very useful to have Polly-

anna's catalogue beside you. Shown here is an excellent uni-sex hooded raincoat, worn in this instance by a boy but beloved by girls. It is coat length, with a generously long sleeve, made of rubberized rayon in a mustard yellow that reverses to a navy blue rayon. Stud fastenings on hood and sleeves add to its protective qualities and will find it waterproof. Good value at £6, £6.50 or £7 accord-

ing to size and my one complaint is that it is made to fit children only between two and 12 years old. Nice deep pockets for glove-lovers are a good idea. The girl wears a really demure and quaint pinafore dress with gathers from the frilled-edge yoke. In woven tartan of brushed-finish. Acrylic, it is warm, practicable and can be worn with party blouses or warm sweaters, and Pollyanna

has both. It is in a black/bottle/red tartan, or a plain bottle-and-red in sizes from 28in to 58in, again from £6/7/50. Rather charming, but not necessarily likely to appeal to all little girls, is the plain white Polyester pericot with broderie anglaise edging. Very Victorian, it is designed to show just above four inches below the hem. There are both charming and

practical things in Pollyanna's catalogue and personal shop pers are welcome at their shop at 311 Fulham Road, London SW6 5HG. Some of the larger Boots shops with children's gear have some good duffel coats and there are a number of specialist shops that are, in my view, terribly expensive. Mothercare is wonderful, serviceable and good value—as are Marks and

Horse-mad children are easy to cater for but not always easy to buy for since pony shops are found mainly in horsey areas. Swallow Horse-toys cater for pony-mad people who cannot own their own ponies but like the accessories to decorate their rooms. Books on ponies, a whole series of miniature models and accessories, including some in leather, are at low prices and would be highly original. The dream ponies, of rough plastic, have real manes and tails to groom with scissors, to wash, to plait and to love. The address is Swallow Horse-toys, Spring Farm, Scrutton, St. Mary, Colchester, Essex (Higham 259). Please send a stamped self-addressed envelope for this little leaflet. Living Art is at 35 Kenway Road, a dear little shop between Earls Court Road and Knaresborough Place, usually under-parked. It has a lot of ethnic and quality pottery, herb bags, cushions, quilts, baskets and gifts but it has a mass of good toys, stocking fillers, and children's things too. Tel: 01-370 2766. Party-mad sells paper hats, streamers, blowers, balloons and all as well as the whole spectrum of tablecloths, pretty paper tableware and everything you might want for old and young parties. Leaflets or personal shopping at 67 Gloucester Avenue, London, NW1 (01-586 0169). Send aae.

An old favourite of mine for named towels and bathrobes has just introduced towelling bathrobes for children from four to about 12 years old. Prices are from £9.50 up to £13.25 according to size which is not so bad since you can buy this kind of garment over so that they can be worn for years. They hardly ever wear out. Adult robes are £17.75 for the shortie and £22.50 for the long one, postage included. The address is Barlow Associates, Director Sales Office, Williams and Glyn's Bank Chambers, Adlington, Chorley PR7 4EZ (Adlington 48166). The name or initials are embroidered on one side of the chest.

The Times Special Offer

Imagine buying yourself an heirloom that you can enjoy to the full as long as you live. A piece that is quality through and through, a piece to be proud of and a piece that is so heavy that anyone who handles it will know instantly that it is a superb piece. This particular heirloom is a tantalus, about 12in high, of pure hand-polished mahogany, solid and matt but rich in colour. The frame is held firmly but gracefully with silver-plated ant deco brackets, a phrase far too mundane for the attractive appearance. A bold but good-looking functional lock with a silver-plated bar that has to be unlocked to free the decanters that hold the precious liquids. Within the mahogany frame are two lead crystal decanters, also heavy with quality, made of the best Portuguese 30 per cent hand-cut crystal. The silver-plated bar that locks them in across the top of the tantalus

and the silver-plated handle gleam invitingly, as though to argue with the lock that keeps the liquor out of reach. This glorious decanter stand has been made since the 1830s, by a company which has dealt in marble, onyx and precious materials since 1685, a firm which celebrated 250 years of trading at the time of George V's silver jubilee in 1935. There have been many changes, many mergers, many products but one of the executives who moved in during 1885, with his well-known ivory scurf combs, still had a descendant on the board in 1935—one Dennis Bowers. In 1939 the company of Puddfoot, Bowers and Simonett, now concentrating chiefly on quality wood products and no ivory, joined with John Berjean and has grown much since, besides keeping quality and crafts alive. In Bethnal Green they still produce fine onyx gifts and this tantalus, offered at a special

price. The name tantalus was taken from King Tantalus, mythical ruler of Phrygia and one of Zeus's many, many sons. He revealed the secrets of the gods and was condemned to stand for life immersed up to the chin in water. Fruit clusters were hung near his lips but every time he tried to reach them or to drink fresh water both receded beyond his reach. Thus we also got tantalizing. In Victorian and Edwardian times, the tantalus locked temptation away from servants and ensured the sobriety of the young. Today it is a thing of beauty, a piece of history, a tradition although, with prices as they are, the security factor is again important. You know you are buying well when you buy from a firm that has survived 15 reigns (16 if one counts Edward VII) and has not only kept its reputation but enhanced it.

Please complete coupon carefully. U.K. address only. Normal delivery within 28 days of receipt of order. Inquiries to Christine Westwood at Selective Marketplace Limited, 01-637 7951.



Send to: Tantalus Offer, Selective Marketplace Limited, 18 Ogilby Street, London W1P 7LG.

I would like Tantalus(s) at £150 each, and my cheque for £..... made payable to Selective Marketplace Limited is enclosed. (Please put name and address on back of cheque.)

Name

Address

Selection of Tantalus Offer, Selective Marketplace Limited, 18 Ogilby Street, London W1P 7LG. Tel: 01-637 7951.

